LPA SCRAPBOOK DISTRICT 5 - VOL. 1

ELEANOR OSTROW 1963 – 1964

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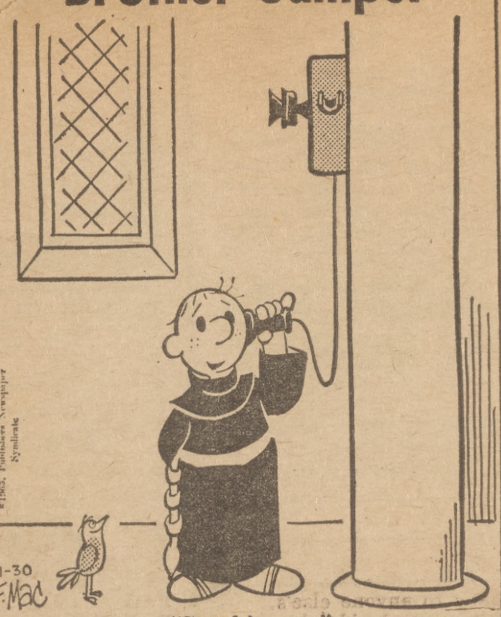
Brother Juniper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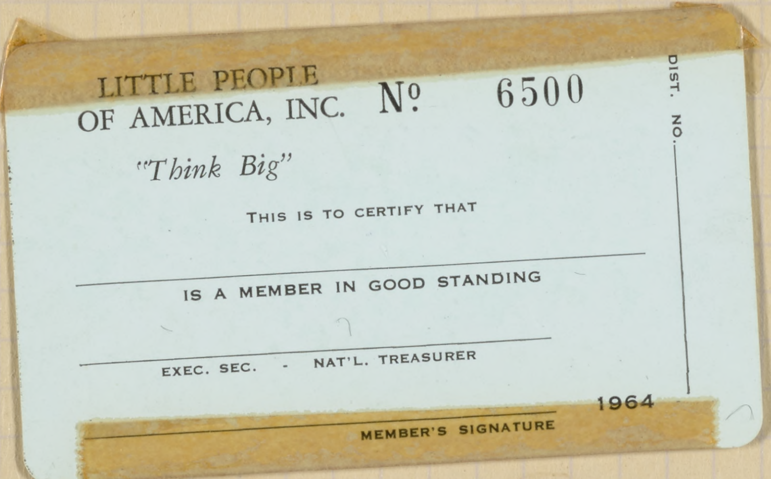
"Speaking . . ."

LPA Scrapbook
January 1964
to June - 1965
Historians
Elli Ostrow 63-64
Harriet Hopper 64-65



LITTLE PEOPLE
OF AMERICA, INC. № 6500

"Think Big"

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

IS A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING

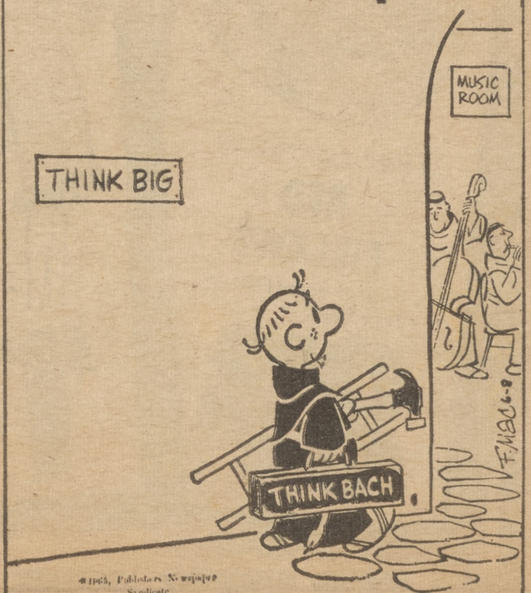
EXEC. SEC. - NAT'L. TREASURER

1964

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE

DIST. NO.

Brother Juniper


MUSIC ROOM
THINK BIG
THINK BACH
F-MAC 6-8
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It Isn't Easy For Him To Find Wife

By HELEN GRIFFITH

Helen Griffith

SMALLEST ELK. Also a dear although we'd better not let this latest addition to Sarasota's colony of Little People, hear us. His name is **James Edward Cooley**, better known as "Jimmy," and he is looking for a wife. This is not easy, even in a city well stocked with widows, because where can a 26-year-old chap weighing only 35 pounds and but 35 inches tall, find a mate? He has applied for membership in The Elks Club where he likes to drop in and has a number of friends who tower above him.

THIS HANDSOME young man, who is reported to be one of the smallest and perfectly formed male midgets in this country, sat in my living room at home on Friday and we had a fine chat. With this lad, who had shaken my hand with his slender baby-size hand when introduced, felt comfortable seated in an antique chair built for a child.

I HAD NOT offered the chair to Jimmy, I knew that in some ways they have their sensitive pride. For instance a midget's pet peeve is when an adult, catching sight of him, pats him on the head and exclaims, "Oh! Isn't he cute!"

With our new midget friend, was his manager Thomas Hart, a Sarasota resident who first set foot here in 1930; also Nate Eagle, sideshow manager, Ringling Bros. Circus. They will all motor up to N.Y.C., the last of this month and will be seen at the World's Fair. Jimmy is being a popular attraction at corporation and shopping center openings, and has been seen and heard (his voice is small but strong) on television.

Miss America's Hometown

"Two months ago, Jimmy was on television out of El Dorado, Ark.," explained Mr. Hart. "We are returning there in March, where Jimmy expects to meet Miss America in her hometown.

"No use proposing to her, though," grinned Nate, who is an avid jokester. "That beautiful girl would never go on that much of a diet! You know I do, though, have in mind a lovely young lady midget who lives in New Jersey I am going to introduce to Jimmy. You asked him what his hobbies are and I noticed he hesitates to say. Well, he has two hobbies . . . girls . . . and girls."

The handsome, blond and dapper small edition to Sarasota's population, is used to such kidding. It is part of his training, important for going traveling about to big cities and meeting the public. For Jimmy, who was born and brought up and just recently discovered in Florence, Ala. He is used to being stared at, and the remarks, and to respond always with a smile and poised politeness, and understanding.

Well Adjusted

I remarked that during my acquaintance with a large number of midgets, I had never found one of them to be maladjusted. "That is more than I can say of all the normal-sized humans I have known," I then laughted, but it does give one food for thought. Because a midget is bound to have a difficult time of it almost from birth.

JIMMY COOLEY

"That is true, they are well adjusted,' 'Nate nooded in complete agreement. "When folks ask them 'how does it seem to be so small?' They respond that as they have never been anything else, they feel just fine, thank you.' And they are wont to ask the question, 'how does it seem to be so large?' "

Incidentally, both Nate Eagle and Tom Hart weigh over 200 lbs. and are close to six feet in height. This made quite a threesome in the living room of my home on Friday.

I was going to offer them coffee, and wondere dif I perhaps should serve Jimmy a demi-tasse. We had already talked about the small portion of meat, etc., he must be served.

"Very difficult in restaurants, where one has to order a regular size steak and most of it remains untouched," explained Tom. "How about ordering a minute steak?" and that was a pretty weak joke but the best we could muster.

To Vote Here

JIMMY LIKES Sarasota so much he is anxious to establish residence long enough to register and vote. The midget population in America is on the wane, I learned. Not all of these little adults can become parents, and when they are, their children are of normal size. Jimmy's parents and sister and brother are normal size. He had to be tutored in his school studies, as it is almost impossible for midgets to attend public schools.

"The restrooms and all the rest of the school equipment are of course geared to the normal-sized student. Jimmy wears clothes that have to be made. His shoes are a baby size 5. Look!" and Nate then swung the 35-lb. 35-in. youth up onto the palm of his large hand and there the lad stood with perfect balance.

"Well, we're off for lunch at the Elks Club now." We will meet Don Williams (a slightly larger Sarasota midget) there. When there's a dance, Don brings his wife Dottie (lovely little lady midget) so he and Jimmy have someone to dance with. There's another problem!

Sarasota Herald-Tribune
Sunday, Feb. 23, 1964—45

SARASOTA JOURNAL
SECTION TWO No. 2. Monday, Feb. 24, 1964—15

'Most Perfectly Formed Little Man' Dies At 25

The "World's Most Perfectly Formed Little Man" is dead.

James Edward (Jimmy) Cooley, 25-year-old midget, who weighed 35 pounds and stood one inch less than three feet tall, was the apparent victim of a heart attack suffered Friday.

Cooley, who was slated to join the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus in Madison Square Garden, March 24, died last night in Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

According to Nate Eagle, sideshow manager for the "Greatest Show on Earth," Little Jimmy was "discovered" last year by Thomas Hart.

JAMES COOLEY

Hart qualified the "discovery" as saying it was "for the big time," as Jimmy had been exhibited with small shows near his Florence, Ala., home prior to last year.

"I met him in Florence," Hart told the JOURNAL, "and Nate (Eagle) and I had made plans to take him to New York with the Ringling show. He had also been booked for several television appearances."

Cooley's parents, Charles and Ruthie, live on a farm about 18 miles from Florence. They have no telephone and were not immediately notified of their son's death.

Hart was sideshow manager for the Clyde Beatty-Cole Brothers Circus when he met Cooley. He then contacted the "King of the Midgets," Eagle, and the two resumed a friendship and business acquaintence that has lasted 40 years.

Friday the two circus men and their protege had lunch at the Elks Club here. They had previously been interviewed by a local columnist.

That afternoon, Hart said, he and Cooley drove to Tampa on business. On the trip home, Jimmy complained of pains in his chest and stomach.

Harris drove to Eagle's home, 3135 S. Osprey Ave., and they took Cooley to the hospital emergency room. His condition was such that he was placed in the hospital's intensive care section.

Dr. George A. Bishopric, along with hospital nurses, aides and other assistants, tried vainly to save the life of "the little man."

In an attempt to save Cooley's life, a "Pacemaker," a machine that is used to stimulate the heart electrically was used.

When Cooley's breath appeared to wane, mouth-to-mouth recuscitation was applied.

The death of the "world's smallest man" here brought back memories to Eagle of a similar situation concerning the "world's largest man," Ted Evans, who died in the same hospital in 1958.

Eagle brought Evans here from Chesterfield, England, in 1952. The 9-foot 4-inch "giant" weighed 467 pounds when hospitalized.

It took two normal-sized beds for Evans. He slept in them diagonally. In contrast, Cooley was so small he could hardly be found in a regular bed.

Cooley was making his home here with Hart, who resides at 4817 10th St., Fruitville. The six-foot 200-pounder said Cooley was looking forward to a planned meeting in two months with Miss America in her native city, El Dorado, Ark.

"He was normal in every way," Hart stated, "and looked forward to someday marrying and raising a family."

Besides the parents, Cooley is survived by a brother and sister. They are all normal size.

Recently Eagle had encouraged Jimmy to apply for membership in the local Elks lodge. He was looking forward to his initiation into that group.

Local medical men have expressed interest in performing an autopsy on the midget's body. Before that may be done, permission must be granted by the family.

Funeral arrangements will be announced after the family is contacted.

J. E. COOLEY

Alabama Midget Taken By Death

James Edward Cooley, 25-year-old midget who had hopes of joining the circus in the near future, died at Sarasota Memorial Hospital late Sunday night.

Cooley came to Sarasota recently and appeared to be in good health last Friday when he was interviewed by a Herald-Tribune columnist. However, later in the day he complained of stomach pains and was taken to the hospital.

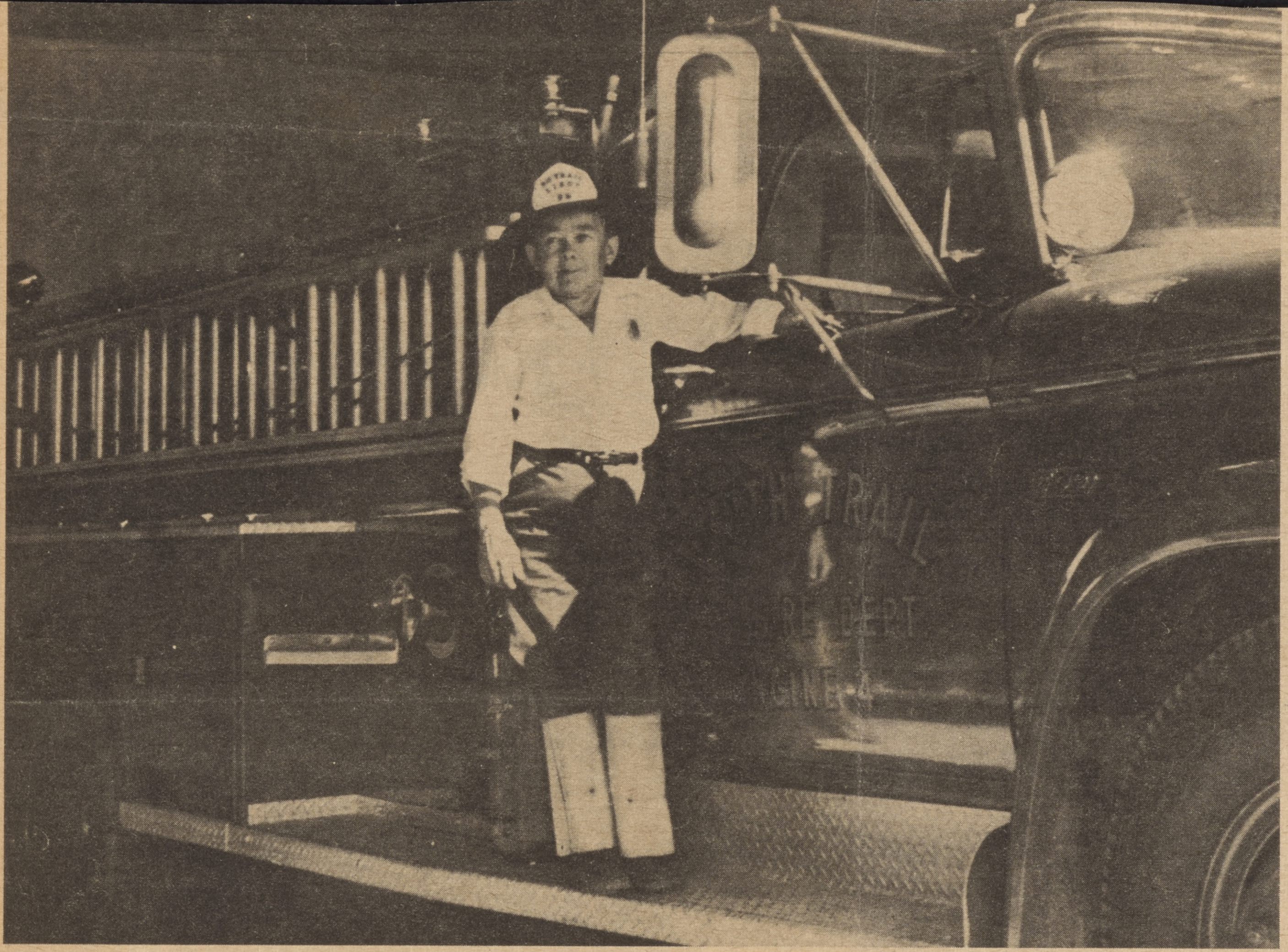
His death was caused apparently by heart attack.

Cooley, who weighed 35 pounds and was 35 inches tall, came here from Florence, Ala., and lived here at 4817 10th St.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cooley, and a brother and sister, all of Florence.

Funeral and interment will be in Florence, with Robarts Funeral Home in charge of local arrangements.

GRIT
Family Section
April 12, 1964



When There's an Alarm, Frank Cucksey Rides to the Scene Like Normal-Sized Smoke-Eaters

MIDGET FIREMAN

HEY, Sonny, you can't go in there; that's no place for kids," yelled a bystander as he grabbed at the small "boy" running for the blazing house.

"Let him in," bellowed the fire chief. "He's not a kid; he's one of our firemen."

"One of your firemen?"

"Yes, and the only one who can climb into that transom."

The chief was talking about Frank Cucksey, who is 51 inches tall, making him the smallest, full-fledged fireman in the world.

As the apprehensive crowd watched, he scampered up to the transom and dropped into the burning house. In a few moments, he reappeared with the family whom he had freed from the path of the hungry flames.

TO CUCKSEY, such a deed is "all in a day's work."

"I was merely performing one of my many duties with the fire department," he said as he shrugged off bystanders' words of praise.

But Frank Cucksey hasn't always been a fireman.

Born in Brooklyn 42 years ago, he comes from a normal-sized family. His 4 brothers and 2 sisters helped him develop his friendly personality and get a start in show business.

"I was Sleepy at the premiere of 'Snow White' in Miami," he said. "The show-business bug bit me right then and there. It was then that I really felt part of a group and not so alone."

From "Snow White," Cucksey went on to appear with the Metropolitan Opera Company, in the Monte Carlo Ballet Russe, circuses, TV, and Broadway shows.

It was only natural, then, that he should move on to films. He appeared in "The Wizard of Oz" and "Three Wise Fools."

HE HAD learned the art of turning his handicap into an asset. Soon, whenever a midget was needed, he was called to fill the roll.

Like many circus people who wintered annually in Sarasota, Fla., then the winter quarters of Ringling Brothers Circus, Cucksey was attracted to the drama and excitement of the fire station. In time, he became a familiar little figure to the firemen and occasionally went with them on their calls.

"Someday," he promised himself, "when I retire, I'm going to live as close to the fire station as I possibly can."

AFTER 20 YEARS of show business, he made good his promise to himself. He became a full-fledged volunteer fireman.

Today, Cucksey can look back at his experiences in show business and say:

"I met a lot of wonderful people. You know, every once in a while I run across someone who saw me on tour.

"I quit show business to retire and look at me; I'm busier now than ever, but I love it."

Cucksey's days are filled with more things to do, places to see, and people to meet than any average man would even attempt to tackle in a week.

From 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. each day, he is the guide at the Museum of the American Circus in Sarasota. Cucksey wears a full ringmaster's outfit as he entertains the tourists.

From 5 p. m. to 9 a. m. of the next day, Cucksey is at the fire station to handle any and all calls. He has a direct line to his firemen. No matter what time of the night a call comes in, he is there to relay the message.

CUCKSEY has an impressive United States and Canadian coin collection, and he gets a gleam in his eye when he spots an unusual coin in the cash register.

Cash register?

Oh, yes, he has one more job. He cashiers at a waffle shop one night a week.

"When I spot a coin I've been looking for," Cucksey said, "everyone in the place knows it."

In 1958, he moved permanently to Sarasota and the fire station. He now is a lieutenant on the force and serves as night man in charge of communications.

DOES HE miss show business and hopping around the country?

"No, the gang is swell around here, and it's never dull," he said. "Once in a while, I get a frantic hurry-up call. Usually, they need me to slide under somewhere or crawl through some opening.

"If the smoke is a menace, I get the job; being small, I can stay closer to the ground. That way, I get more air than the average fellow does.

"Those calls in the still of the night," he continued, "wake me up fast. Besides the fire alarms, we handle ambulance calls for our members, covering everything from heart attacks to wrecks. Some of the calls are hysterical, and then I have to use my sternest voice. One woman wouldn't calm down until I loudly told her, 'Madam, will you please shut up and start all over again or I'll hang up.'

"Now and then, I get a laugh to liven things up, like the call I got 3 times in one night. Each time, it was the same: 'Mister Policeman? . . . that man's still bothering me.' That woman never did wait long enough for me to tell her she had the fire house and not the police station."

AT THE fire station, where he has his own apartment, Cucksey is surrounded with his circus mementoes, posters, pictures, and scrapbooks. However, he refuses to live in the past.

"You should see my flower garden," he said. "I'm a real bug on that now. All my life I've wanted a garden, and now I'm prouder of my petunias and hibiscus than I ever was about my acts."

In addition, Cucksey is a good salesman for Sarasota, Fla. Not long ago, a group of Florida firemen met at Delray Beach to designate a host city for their coming convention. Cucksey and his enthusiasm won the honor for Sarasota. He might have been the **smallest** fireman in that hall, but he had the **biggest** voice.

Friend to all, hobby enthusiast, nature lover, guide, cashier, happy and busy—that's Frank Cucksey, a midget who is the world's smallest fireman.

Lt. Cucksey Handles Department Calls 16 Hours a Day

THE SCRANTON TIMES, FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1964.

'Little People' Plan Conclave in City

Many of these members of Little People of America, Inc., will be delegates to the organization's annual three-day convention April 10-12 in Hotel Jermyn. Eleanor Ostrow, fifth from left in rear row, Brooklyn, N.Y., is director of LPA District 2, which includes the Scranton area. "Think Big" is the motto of the unique organization which has as its purpose the fostering of fellowship, interchange of ideas and solutions to the problems of little persons.

'Little People' To Meet in City

March 6, 1964

Little People of America, Inc., will open a three-day convention at Hotel Jermyn on April 10.

The convention group is scheduled to arrive after 6 p.m., make a tour of the city the following morning and return to the hotel for luncheon. The convention dinner will be the night of April 11. The group will leave the city after lunch on April 12.

National officers of the organization are Bob Brower, Scottsdale, Aris., president; Bill Albaugh, Camden, N.J., vice president; Miss Janet Herrick, Jamestown, N.Y., secretary, and James C. Liles, Asheville, N.C., treasurer.

The organization is divided into 14 districts, with New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey in District 2. Miss Eleanor Ostrow, 4567 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y., is director of District 2.

Little People of America, Inc., is made up of persons of smaller than average stature from almost all walks of life. The first meeting was in 1955 when Billy Barty of television and motion pictures brought a small group together.

The present organization was established at a meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., in 1960 when a national convention was held with more than 100 persons attending. At this meeting a constitution was adopted, the United States was divided into districts for incorporation as a non-profit organization.

4

Parley Set Here By Little People

SCRANTON TIMES

A unique organization, Little People of America, Inc., will have its annual three-day national convention next month in Scranton.

It is comprised of persons considerably smaller in stature than normal.

Its motto: "Think Big."

The convention is scheduled April 10-12. Headquarters will be Hotel Jermyn.

Members will arrive on the evening of the 10th. The tentative schedule for the 11th calls for a tour of the city in the morning, luncheon, election of officers, an evening banquet and a social.

Robert Brower of Scottsdale, Ariz., is national president. Miss Eleanor Ostrow of Brooklyn, N.Y., is director of District 2, which covers New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The express purpose of LPA is to provide fellowship, an interchange of ideas and solutions to the problems of little persons.

'LITTLE PEOPLE' HOLD DISTRICT CONVENTION — District 2 of Little People of America, Inc., opened a three-day convention at Hotel Jermyn in Scranton Friday. The program will include a tour of the city, business meeting and banquet today, concluding with a luncheon Sunday. Over 40 of the approximately 250 members of the district, comprised of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, are attending. Principals include, left to right: Frances Conville, Decatur, Ga., editor of the National Newsletter, the organization's official newspaper; Dan Turner, Ashville, N.C., associate editor; Bob Hinkson, Washington, D.C., past treasurer; Janet Herrick, Jamestown, N.Y., national secretary; Jeanette Gosart, Pittston; Eleanor Ostrow, Brooklyn, N.Y., District 2 director, and Margaret Mangione, Scranton. Plans will be made for the district's participation in the national convention in Phoenix, Ariz., this summer.

* * *

Four-Feet-10 and Under

'Little People' Meet Here to Solve Many 'Big' Problems in Their Lives

By BILL GUMMER

Insurance, clothing and social life—these are three of the main problems to be discussed today by District 2 of the Little People of America, Inc., which opened a three-day convention at Hotel Jermyn Friday.

Miss Eleanor Ostrow, Brooklyn, N.Y., director of District 2, told The Tribune that more than 40 of the approximately 250 members of the district will attend the business meeting today at 2 p.m. In addition to discussing problems confronting the "little people," plans will be made for the district's participation in the national convention of the Little People of America to be held this summer in Phoenix, Ariz.

Membership to the group is limited to persons who stand four feet, 10 inches and under. The purpose of the organization is to enable persons considered of smaller than average stature to group together to discuss and solve common problems.

The first meeting was in 1955 when Billy Barty of television and motion pictures brought a small group together. The present organization was established at a meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., in 1960 when a national convention was held with more than 100 persons attending.

Today, "Little People of America, Inc.," has approximately 2,000 members.

The smallest member of the group is two feet, 10 inches tall. President Bob Brower, Scottsdale, Ariz., may be the tallest member at four feet, 11 inches. Miss Ostrow said he was under the maximum height when he joined the organization but he claims he gained about five inches after he turned 21.

Addressing the group at the meeting today will be Stanley Solomon and Michael Bader, li-

(Please Turn to Page 10)

The Scranton Tribune Sat., April 11, 1964

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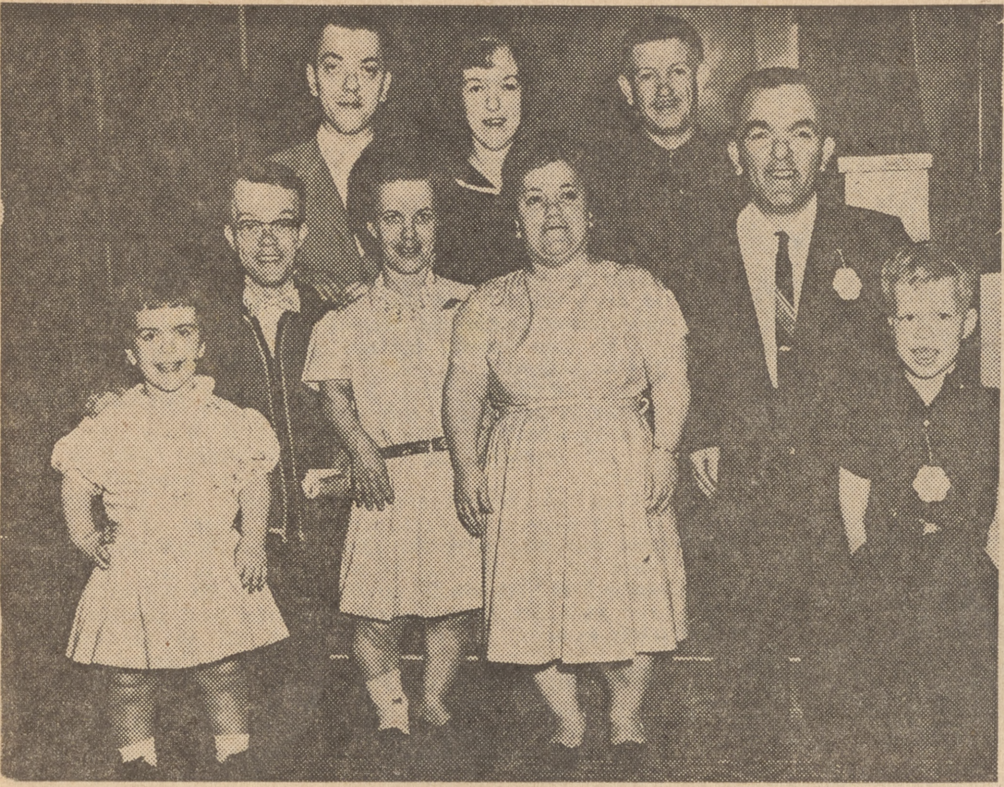
To Discuss Common Problems

Little People Wear Big Smiles at Convention



Times Photo by Greskovic

Some of the 40 persons attending the District 2 convention of Little People of America, Inc., at Hotel Jermyn are shown prior to taking a tour of the city as part of their three-day convention here. Front row, from the left: Shirley Marie Lentini, eight, of Auburn, N.Y.; Howard Thompson, Philadelphia; Emma Lentini, Auburn, N.Y.; Margaret Mangione, this city; Harry Waxler, Philadelphia, and Scotty Bunce, eight, Herkimer, N.Y. Second row, same order: Art Schraeder, Pittsburgh; Eleanor Ostrow, Brooklyn, N.Y., director of District 2, and Robert Hill, Breilgsville, Lehigh County.

Scranton Toured By 40 Delegates

Some of the biggest smiles seen around Scranton today were worn by 40 of the littlest people, gathered here for a three-day convention of District 2 of Little People of America, Inc.

The delegates at Hotel Jermyn, were having a good time as well as preparing to deal with some of the serious problems they have in common.

The convention opened last night with a get-acquainted session. A common reaction this morning was that many delegates felt they were somewhat alone in a world in which chairs and tables are too high, clothes too big, and many other factors out of proportion.

Meeting others of small stature served to prove that they are not alone. This gave spirits a lift and the group gathered for a tour of the city was the happiest convention crowd seen in some time.

After a luncheon, the delegates planned to take up problems in a business session, dealing with such things as employment, clothing, insurance and other special matters of concern to "little people."

Miss Eleanor Ostrow of Brooklyn, N.Y., is director of District 2, consisting of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She noted that the organization was composed of persons less than 4 feet, 10 inches tall. Its purpose is to give them an opportunity to discuss and solve common problems and to provide an organization for social activities.

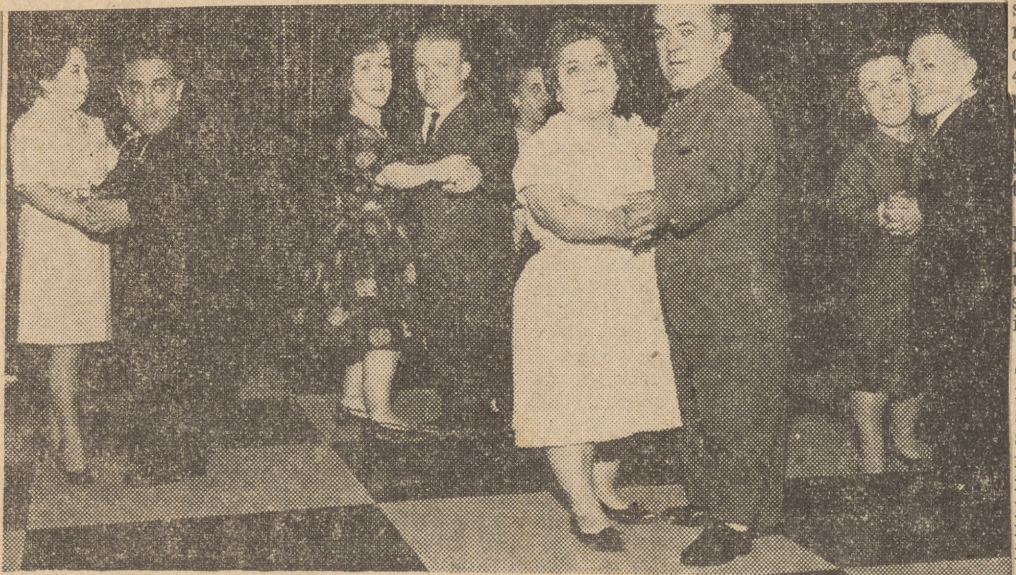
Stanley Solomon and Michael Bader, licensed consultants for professional groups, were scheduled to address the business session on progress in securing insurance benefits.

Miss Ostrow noted that the oragnization had been gathering evidence to show that persons of smaller than average stature do not have higher mortality rates than others—an important factor for these people, many of who have been refused life, health and accident insurance.

A banquet and social session will be conducted tonight and most of the group is expected to leave after luncheon tomorrow.

Plans will also be discussed for the district's participation in the national convention of Little People of America this Summer in Phoenix, Ariz.

April 12, 196



LITTLE PEOPLE: BIG PARTY—Tripping the light fantastic proved a delightful evening for members of Little People of America, Inc., Saturday night at Hotel Casey. The ball followed an afternoon business meeting at which problems peculiar to the little people—insurance, clothing, adoption—were discussed. The group, numbering some 40 persons, arrived here Friday for the three-day meeting, a forerunner of a national session set for the summer in Phoenix, Ariz. A break from Saturday's business program included a tour of the city and a visit at Nay Aug Park. The group will end the gathering after lunch today. Pictured on the Casey ballroom floor are, from left: Miss Marge Stremel, Philadelphia, and Harold Schuman, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Eleanor Ostrow, and Richard Heyman, Brooklyn; Emma Lentini, Auburn, N.Y., (partially hidden and dancing with her husband who is obscured); Margaret Mangione, Scranton, and Al Dufton, Philadelphia, formerly of Throop, and Mr. and Mrs. George Baehm, Great Neck, N.Y. (Scrantonian Photo by Ed Smith)

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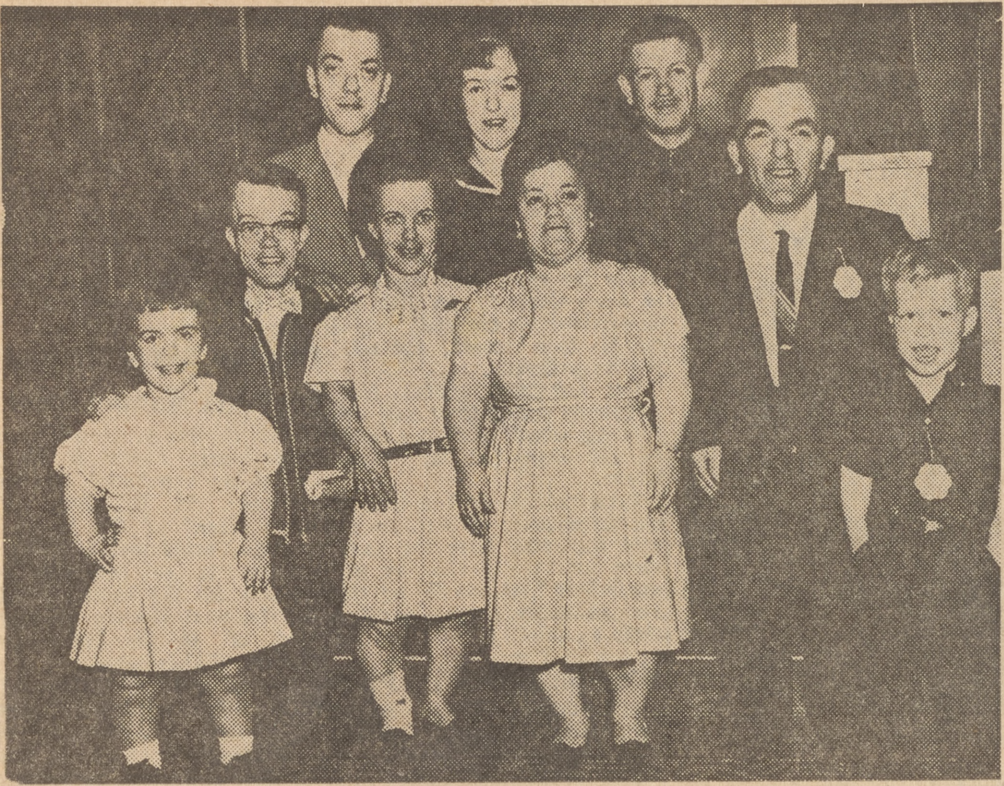

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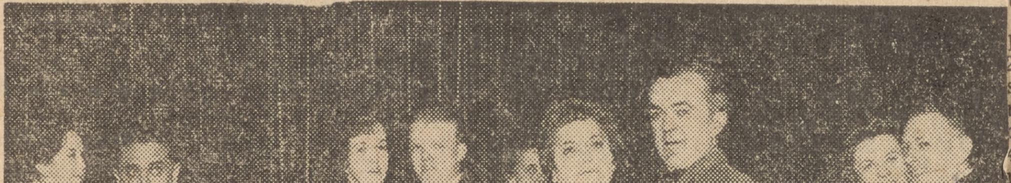
April 12, 1964 The Scrantonian



LITTLE PEOPLE: BIG PARTY—Tripping the light fantastic proved a delightful evening for members of Little People of America, Inc., Saturday night at Hotel Casey. The ball followed an afternoon business meeting at which problems peculiar to the little people—insurance, clothing, adoption—were discussed. The group, numbering some 40 persons, arrived here Friday for the three-day meeting, a forerunner of a national session set for the summer in Phoenix, Ariz. A break from Saturday's business program included a tour of the city and a visit at Nay Aug Park. The group will end the gathering after lunch today. Pictured on the Casey ballroom floor are, from left: Miss Marge Stremel, Philadelphia, and Harold Schuman, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Eleanor Ostrow, and Richard Heyman, Brooklyn; Emma Lentini, Auburn, N.Y., (partially hidden and dancing with her husband who is obscured); Margaret Mangione, Scranton, and Al Dufton, Philadelphia, formerly of Throop, and Mr. and Mrs. George Baehm, Great Neck, N.Y. (Scrantonian Photo by Ed Smith)

10—Sat., April 11, 1964

'Little People' Meet Here To Solve 'Big' Problems

(Continued From Page Three)

censed consultants for professional groups, who will discuss their progress in securing insurance benefits. The pair has been associated with the organization, through Miss Ostrow, who has been acting as apokesman, for the purpose of securing evidence that the "little people" do not have any differences or higher "morbidity" or "morality" rates than persons of average stature.

This research, Solomon said, is relatively new and is important for the "little people," as many, if not most of them, have been refused insurance benefits —whether life, health or automobile insurance.

Bader said that they have made a break-through in this problem for the first time in 30 years, and stated they have achieved an official commitment which will pave the way for group insurance.

Other activities to be discussed will be the adoption committee. Miss Ostrow said this committee works to secure a home for dwarf children who are put up for adoption by normal sized parents. This also is an important project for the committee, for it not only serves to aid the unwanted children, but also allows parents in the organization to adopt children. Miss Ostrow pointed out members of the organization are unable to adopt normal size children.

Another problem to be discussed is the social life of the "little people." Adolescence is a difficult time in any child's life, Miss Ostrow said, but to an unusually small person it is most difficult. This is especially true of a small child of average size parents, who, because of their pride or ignorance, "hide them" or keep them from normal activities, thereby hindering mental growth, Miss Ostrow said.

Clothing is discussed by the group as it is sometimes difficult to get proper adult styled garments. Most members of the group deal with several business concerns which specialize in clothing for the "little people," according to Janet Herrick, Jamestown, N.Y., who is national secretary and past district chairman. The main problem in clothing is shoes, Miss Herrick said.

The organization also has several committees, Miss Ostrow said, which aid its members. Among them is the employment committee, which serves as a placement service. Contrary to popular thought, Miss Ostrow said, there is only a small percentage in show business. The majority is engaged in clerical work, but actually members work in all types of industry, exemplifying versatility.

The group also sponsors a scholarship committee, which provides educational funds for some worthy "little person."

Members of the district arrived late Friday afternoon, some traveling most of the day. In addition to district members there also were several guests from other districts, including Dan Turner, Ashville, N.C., past president; Robert Hinkson, Baltimore, Md., past treasurer; Frank Duckworth, Atlanta, Ga., and Frances Conville, Decatur, Ga. There is one representative from the city, Margaret Mangione.

Today's activities will begin with a tour of the city at 10 a.m., including a visit of Nay Aug Park and Everhart Museum. A banquet will be held at 7 p.m., followed by a social gathering at 9 p.m.

The group is expected to leave the city Sunday after lunch.

May-June 1964 Niagara Frontier. Guider

FOCUS ON A HOST

By Mark Van Dusen

TOMMY COTTONARO – THE PARKWAY INN

Tommy Cottonaro, restaurant manager in charge of all food and beverages at the luxurious Parkway Inn, has led an unusual life of varied activities. He started his career in the restaurant business in 1934 as a busboy at Lorenzo's.

After graduating from Buffalo Tech in 1939, Tommy went to California to work for Victor Hugo's at Laguna Beach between Los Angeles and San Diego. Eventually he had his own chain of spaghetti houses in Glendale, Laguna Beach, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles and Palm Springs. One of these was located on Vine Street directly across from the one time famous Brown Derby. In telling of his California restaurants, Tommy muses that those were the days when spaghetti dinners were served at twenty-five cents a dish.

One of the most interesting of Tommy's stories is how he gained the capital to finance his ventures in the restau-business on the west coast. One night about three a.m. he was standing at the corner of Hollywood and Vine, across from the Owl All Nite Drug Store, when he was approached by a young man, Billy Curtiss, who offered to introduce who him to Al Singer in Culver City who was casting for a picture. Singer was the well known creator of the famous Singer's Midgets Act. At the time he was casting for "The Wizard of

– Frontier Guider

Oz" which starred Judy Garland.

Even though he is, a short man, four feet, seven inches tall, Singer thought Tommy was too tall for the part. However, by a series of lucky mistakes, he got on the payroll and into the picture before anyone, including Singer, caught on to what was happening. After playing the part of the Mayor in "The Wizard of Oz", Tommy played all sorts of roles in over 15 pictures including the part of Cheeta in one of the "Tarzan" pictures.

At the Parkway Inn he started as bartender six years ago. After a month Tommy was made head bartender and from then has made rapid strides upward to his present position. A man who is most conscientious of the necessity to be on the alert for new ideas in these fast changing times, he is untiring in efforts to introduce the newest and finest innovations to the Parkway Inn.

With a capacity that can accomodate up to 1500 banquet guests at one time, service at the Parkway Inn is such that every meal can be served promptly and steaming hot just as it came from the Inn's immaculate kitchen. This is just one of the reasons why Tommy Cottonaro is one of the most popular men on the Niagara Frontier restaurant scene.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

V

intense criticism

Tiny Woman in Big Job

1964

She Lives in Two Worlds

Marion VanHarkin, housemother at Grace Bible College, lives in two worlds — the "big world" and her own "little world."

The tiny commercial artist, 3 feet 6 inches tall, performs dual duty for the school, doing art work and acting as ruling hand and sympathetic ear for 22 fledgling ministers and missionaries who are residents in its men's dormitory at 1011 Aldon St. SW.

For Miss Van Harkin, the big world is a daily encounter with the unreachable elevator button, the high altitude telephones of the pay booth, the faraway pedals of an auto and the lofty closet shelves of the average home. Pedal extensions and other devices enable Miss VanHarkin to drive her own car.

One of 10 Children

A native of Hawthorne, N.J., Miss VanHarkin is the ninth of 10 children of a family. All the others are "big people."

A chance meeting with parents of the college's academic dean, Jack Dean, gave Miss VanHarkin the lead on the housemother job which she took last September because she "wanted to work with people."

Stature is only one of the problems of the "little people." Shyness and timidity must be overcome with "a good sense of humor and determination," she explains.

Miss VanHarkin's little world is an organization, Little People of America, Inc., for those 4 feet, 10 inches or shorter. Formerly field director of the organization for New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, she's seeking qualified joiners here.

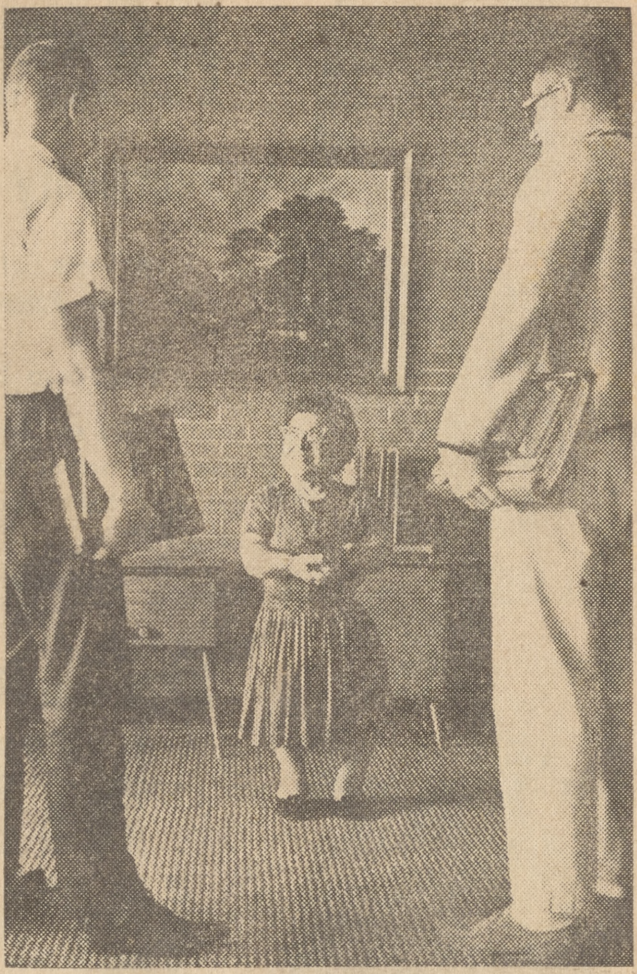
See 'Selves' in Action

Aim of the organization — some "little people" shy away from joining because they feel conspicious when gathered in a group — is to educate and train the diminutive for big world, Miss VanHarkin explains.

Meeting together, the tiny folk have a chance to "see themselves in action (through association of with others of like size)," Miss VanHarkin adds.

This year's national convention of the Little People of America, usually attended by about 150 of the more than 3,000 little folk in this country will be in Phoenix, Ariz., she adds.

Because diminutive infants or juveniles are often orphans or are shunned by normal parents, Miss VanHarkin's organization has an adoption committee for placement of such children with "matching" couples, Miss VanHarkin explains.

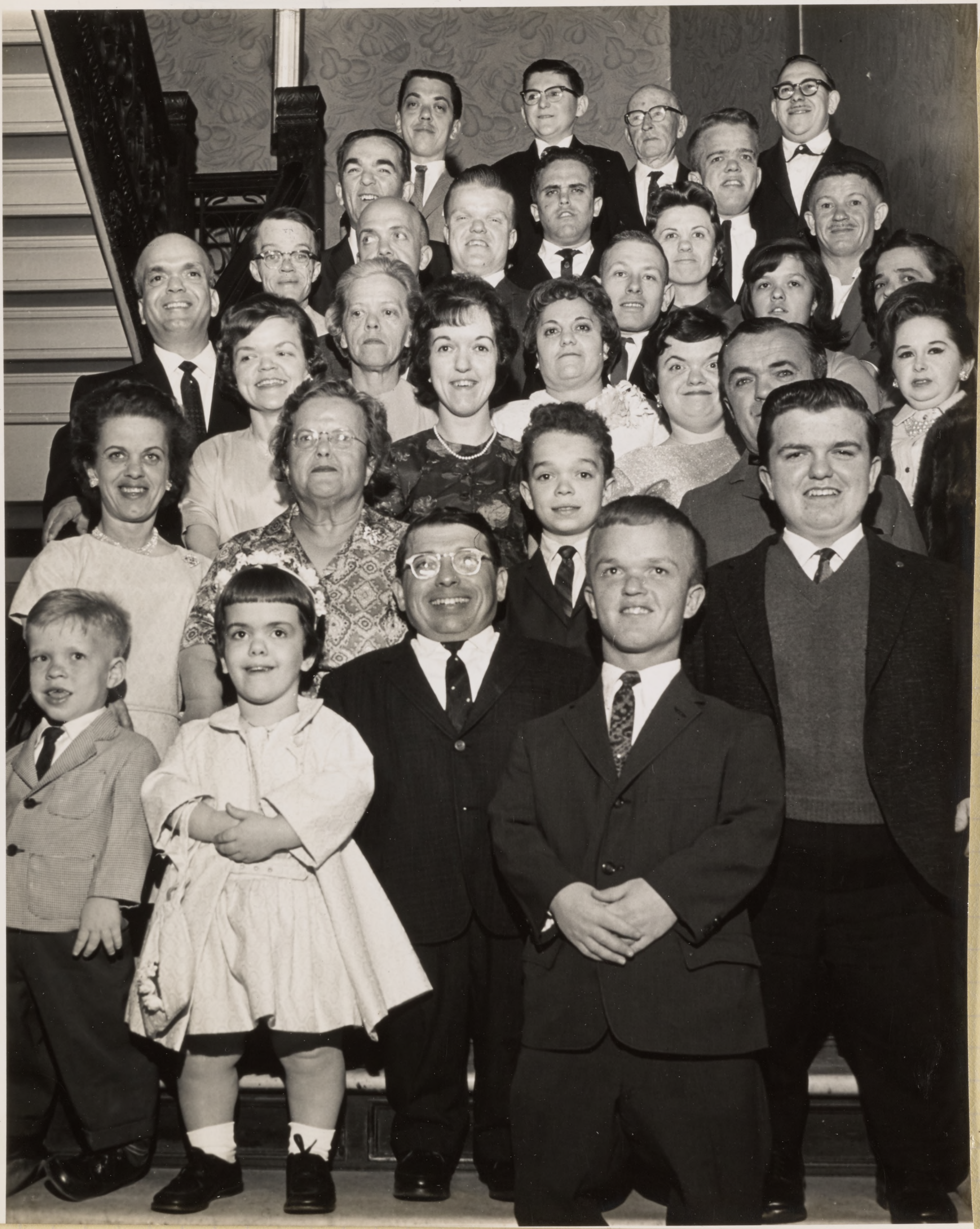


—Grand Rapids Press Photographer.

LOOKS UP TO CHARGES—Marion VanHarkin is only 3-feet-6 inches tall, but she reigns as housemother in the Grace Bible College dormitory where her "charges," Dorrance Engstrom of Riverside, Calif., left, and Jerry Redding of Holt, make their home away from home.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE
of AMERICA Inc.

DISTRICT 2 - April 11, 1964 - Scranton, Pa



Midget Has Giant Sense of Humor

5-64

San Antonio - Texas

(Picture - next page

By SAM KINDRICK

Tiny Tommy Berry, the mighty mite of Luke Lindsey's Enco station at Loop 410 and Blanco Road, hopped out of a Cadillac trunk, then squirmed under the car hood like a squirrel taking to a hollow tree.

"Oil's okay, ma'am," he called to the gaping customer.

At 4-feet-4-inches, midget Berry is the "Tom Thumb" of Bexar County gas jockeys and he must be considered one of the most diminutive pumpers found anywhere.

"It gets pretty hectic sometimes," he grins. "But I like the work."

Motorists often have difficulty seeing the little guy, and on more than one occasion his agility alone has saved him from being squashed by truck tires taller than he.

Also, Berry admits, some of the customers have difficulty adjusting to his unique methods.

A clown at heart, tiny Tom calls himself "The Happy Oil Drop." (That's Humble's trademark). He often goes out of his way to entertain his patrons. To check spare tire air in Cadillacs and Lincolns, he hops into the trunks and strolls about freely.

"I almost got locked in once," he said. "I was in a trunk, checking a spare tire, when I noticed it started getting dark. One of the other attendants had shut the lid on me, and if I handn't started hollering, no telling where I'd have wound up."

The 20-year-old Berry is really a nice little guy and a master in the gentle art of public pleasing. Lindsey, a colorful sort himself, probably values Tom's public relations capabilities as much as his dexterity with the pumps.

Once, said Tommy, he climbed under the hood of a GMC pickup truck "and almost got lost."

Tom got half serious. Only half. An Edison High School graduate, he lacks one year graduating from college with a degree in accounting. He lives at 802 Lovera St. Only midget in the family, he says his handicap is due to a glandular defect.

"Physically," he said, "I am normally developed. Mentally, too, I hope like hell."

His philosophy is pure and simple: Once a runt, always a runt. And he has no use for half-baked medical theories on how to make him grow.

"I've told those doctors just to leave me be," he said. "I'm happy just like I am."

Strangers to the filling station usually do a double-take when Tom comes bustling out.

"Sometimes they don't even see me at first. I ask them what they want, and they look all around like they're hearing things or something."

One woman, after having her Lincoln serviced, became all but feverish as Tom drove her home.

"I could see over the dash board okay," he said.

Window wiping and other high-up work, Berry leaves to the taller hands at the station. He services engines only when necessary.

However, being four-feet tall has its advantages.

Vacuum cleaning cars Berry says, is a snap. And who else, he asks, can air up a set of tires without even bending his back? See next page

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Backers Say He Will

64 Spring

52-Inch Barber's Aim: To Be Tops In City

By MITCH KEHETIAN
Citizen-Journal Staff Writer

Mike Ryan might be small in size—but he's big in stature and determination.

Mike, 18, hopes to become this city's top barber—and his customers say he will.

HE OPERATES the third chair at Beechwold Barbers, 4332 N. High-st.

Mike is 4 feet, 4 inches tall. His first customer came in eight days ago.

"I WAS SCARED stiff, but when he said, 'Good job Mike, see you in three weeks,' I was the happiest man in the world."

Mike stands on a 10-inch high platform while cutting hair.

"That puts me over five feet, including shoes," he said.

The shop's manager, Ed Jeffers, is equally high on Mike. "If ever a man has the determination to make good, it is Mike."

THE YOUTH first walked into the barber shop 14 months ago to apply for a job as a boot-black. He got it.

Last month he walked out of a barber college here, proudly clutching his apprentice barber license.

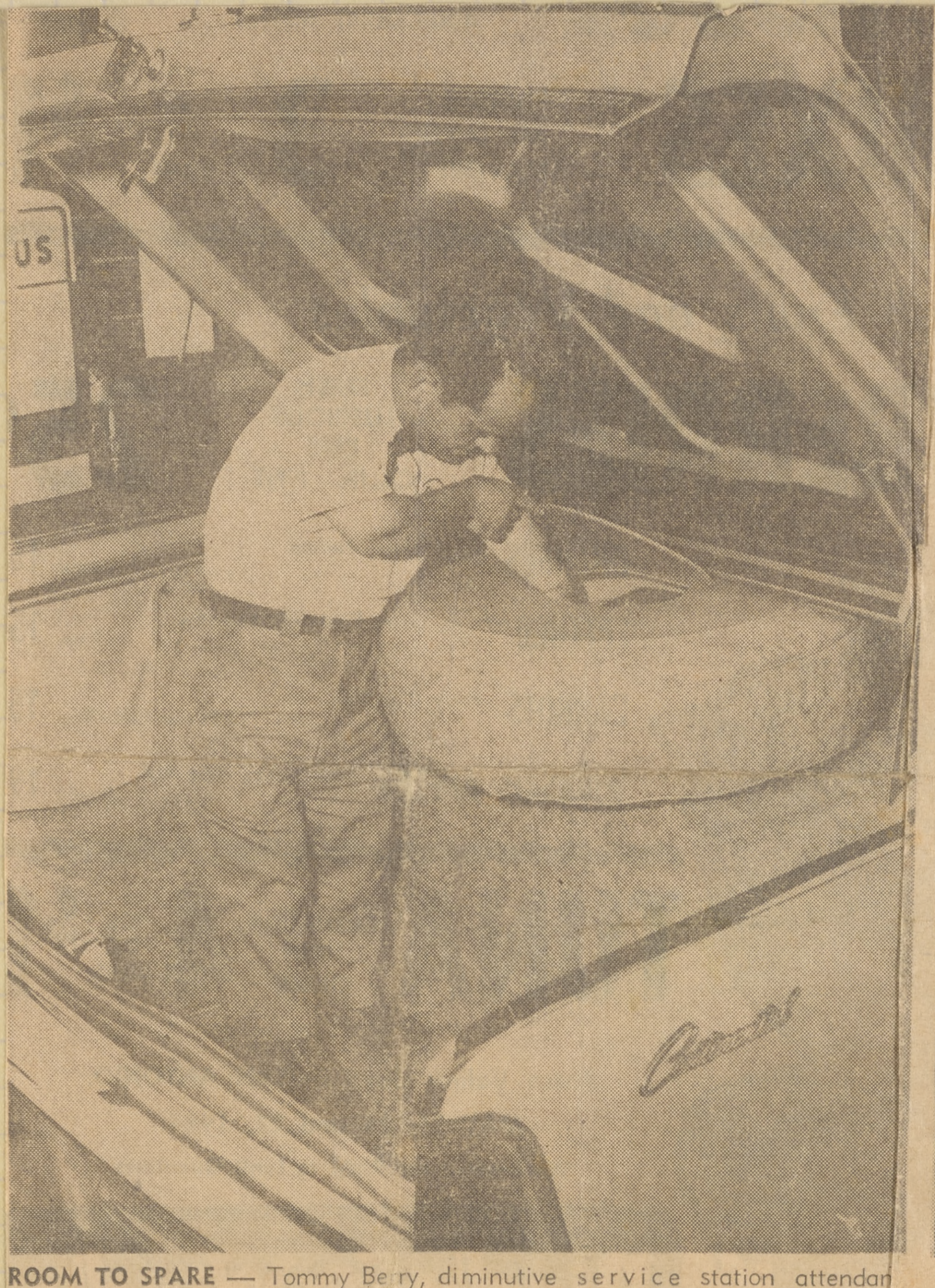
The third chair at Beechwold was waiting for him.

FIRST TO congratulate Mike was Jeffers.

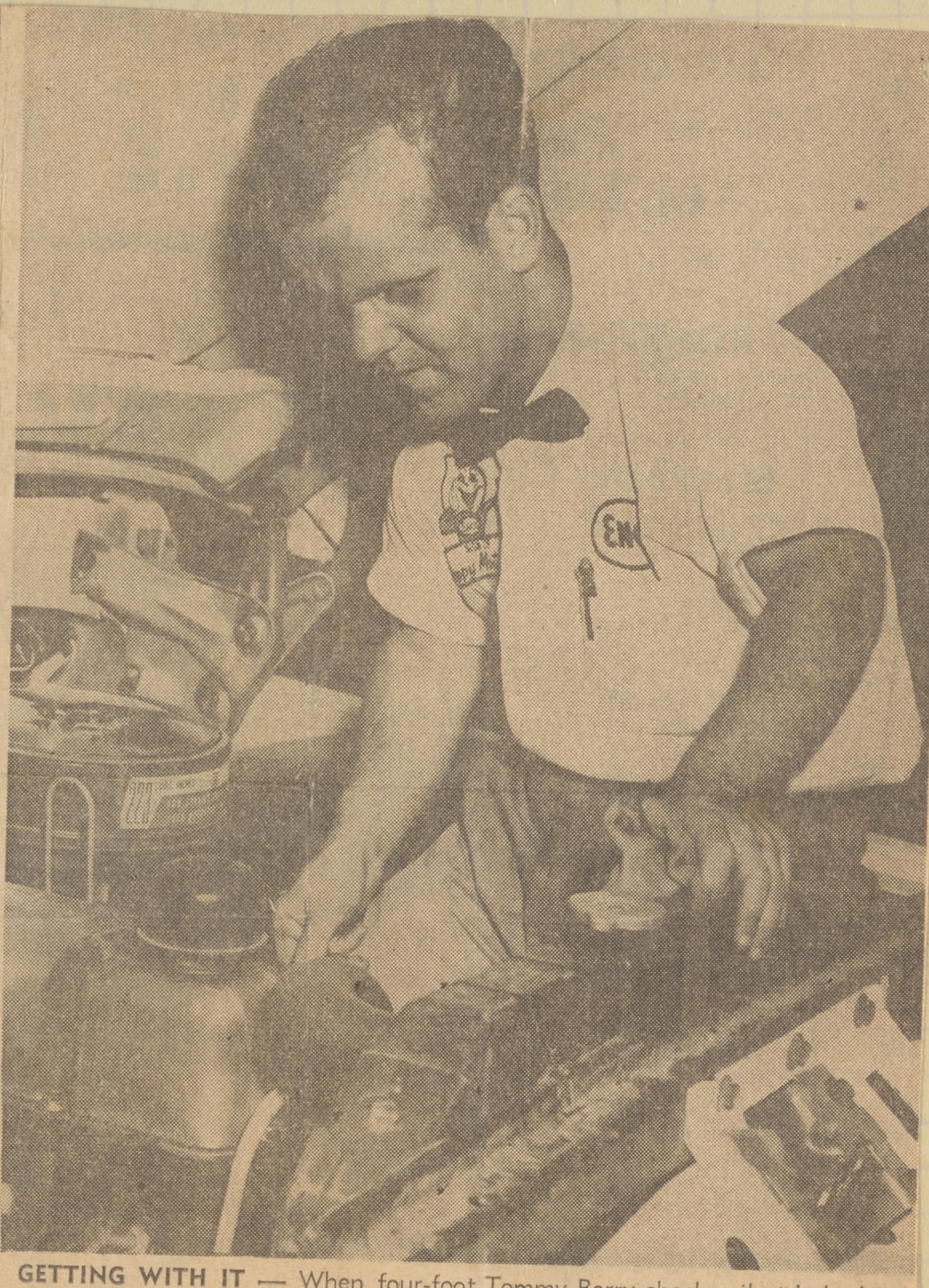
Many of Mike's young customers are former classmates at Bishop Watterson High School, from which he was graduated last June.

He lives with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Ryan, of 53 W. Cooke-rd.

Mike Ryan, who's only four feet, four inches tall, cuts the hair of customer John Schultheis with the aid of a 10-inch platform. He's a new barber college graduate. (Photo by Lloyd Flowers.)



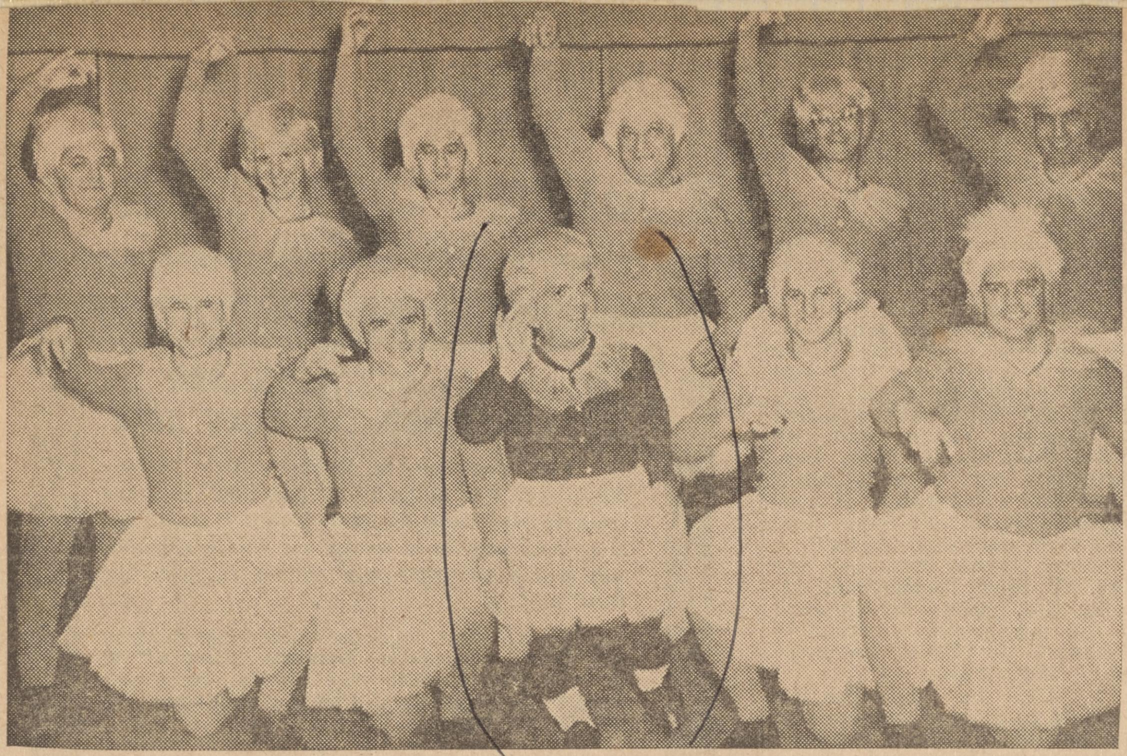
ROOM TO SPARE — Tommy Berry, diminutive service station attendan
stands erect in trunk of auto where he checks air in spare tire. Once, the litt
guy says, a trunk lid was inadvertently closed, and he barely missed taki
a long, dark trip. — Staff Photo.



GETTING WITH IT — When four-foot Tommy Berry checks oil at Luke Lindsey service station, he goes into the motor feet-first. In photo, he services pickup truck. — Staff Photo.

See next page - May 64 - San Antonio

3½-Oz. Cans 25¢



MONDAY
MAY 4, 1964

MINSTREL SHOW—The "Corp De Bullshoi," a ballet team of the St. Francis Minstrel Association, goes through their dance routine in preparation for their Minstrel Show to be held Wednesday and Thursday at the Auburn Theatre. Members kneeling from left to right are Francis J. Mastropietro, Frank A. Scucces, Frank J. Lentini, Sam F. Bulla, Jim W. Hoffman. Standing are Anthony J. Alvaro, Dick P. DiSanto, Dominick A. Spano· Dominick R. Basile, Alfred J. Tessoni, Dominick Scala.

Reviewer Says '64 Jamboree Has Surprises for Audience

A difficulty in reviewing a first-night show is that some of the best things need an element of surprise. Therefore, if you are going to the Auburn Schine tonight for the final performance of the "Minstrel Jamboree of '64", staged by the St. Francis Minstrel Association for the the church's recreation program, you might postpone reading the review until tomorrow.

One surprise feature will not recur, since Alan Mack's humorous monologue during the intermission resulted from a one-day visit to an Auburn friend who happened to be chairman of the show, Francis Mastropietro. Mr. Mack has a varied repertoire, and he was more than generous with his contribution to the gala performance.

One highly commendable aspect of the show was the absence of black-face make-up. In part II, the chorus, men and women alike wore bright red vests over white shirts and blouses, with shiny top-hats and vari-colored skirts and trousers, all looking rosy and smiling to the final curtain. The endmen were pleasingly differentiated in style and costume, displaying fancy vests and assorted hats, and occasionally disappearing to don some amusing disguise for the next stunt.

The soloists, seated in the front row of the chorus, were in evening gowns or snappy semi-formal togs.

Orchestra Performs

The orchestra, which led off with nostalgic tunes before each part of the program, consisted of Messrs. Gagliano, LaHood, Tripiciano, Aversa, Mamuscia, Cervo, Fiore, Scala, Agati and a Manzone. When they, purportedly a "Spanish Rhythm Band," accompanied Frank and Tony Mucedola, top-flight accordionists, the former gave a set of Iberian surnames.

Mrs. Ida Cervo, who with Edmund Lober produced and directed the show, was also at the piano for some solo accompaniments.

There was an unannounced appearance of an eccentric outfit composed of endmen near the finale, which had the accomplished comedian, Frank Lentini, topping his previous impersonations with the aid of a length of rubber tubing. Frank had earlier appeared in a moss-green leotard, plus a diaphanous ballet skirt to the knees, as premier ballerina with the rose-pink members of the "Corp de Ballet de Bullshoi."

He and Mrs. Lentini, coquettish in pink chiffon and a rose velvet poke bonnet, had given another twist to "Hello, Dolly." And, of course, he was responsible for many of the jokes which flew between the endmen.

The dignified Interlocutor, Joseph Camardo, in highly formal black attire, reigned over this ephemeral kingdom of song and laughter with benign authority. The genial announcer of six special acts preceding the minstrels proper was Anthony Catalfano.

Dance Routines

Phil Simone was listed as master of ceremonies for three dance routines, performed professionally, in a night-club setting, by Mary Jean and Sam Bulla, she in swirling white with ivory-yellow blossoms in a heart-shaped arrangement above the waist-line, to matc her golden curls. The coupl performed a cha-cha to "Neve on Sunday," a waltz to "Moo River," and a Latin step calle (I think) "La Contrasina."

Act I was an eccentric due by Mary Calimeri and Jin Hoffman, she with a yellow wi arranged in two huge braids and both wearing costumes bes described as things of shred and patches. She sang "M Man"; he joined her on a parl bench, warbling "Cuddle Up a Little Closer."

Act 2 had Theresa Casbarrc trying to overcome befuddlement on a bench under a sign "No Sleeping in the Park." She was accosted by a uniformed policeman, Emma Lentini, who finally brought her to the point of singing, "Show Me the Way to Go Home."

Act 3 was a medley of Italian airs by the Mucedola brothers, followed by a whole series of regional Tarantellas, for which the audience was invited to clap in time.

Act 4 was a night club scene with Sam and Mary Jean Bulla. Act 5 a delightful recital by the Mount Carmel Folk Singers led by Father Kenneth McElligott in his brown Carmelite robe, with a big guitar and a big smile. They sang "All Over This Land," "Good News, Chariot's a-Comin'," "Let My People Go," and "When the Saints Go Marching In." The long line of boys and girls stretched the width of the big stage. Listed as the "Queenston Trio" were Marilyn Matro, Rosemary and Marguerite Mastropietro.

Act 6 was the ballet, performed by Messrs. Alvaro, DiSanto, Spano, Scuccess, Mastropietro, Bulla, Hoffman, Basile, Tessoni· Scala and Lentini. Pratfalls abounded. "Fifi" was finally given the bum's rush by the rank and file.

The endmen were as follows: Aces, Vito Tozzi; Cy, Richard DiSanto; Gibby, Frank Lentini; Hungry, Dom Basile; Hiram, Jim Hoffman; Duke, Phil Simone. Soloists also included Babe Tozzi, Theresa Casbarro, Pat Trinca, Rose Giacolone, Geraldine Malvaso, Leatrice Dillon, Grace Daloia, Fred Herrling and Mary Calimeri who sang just before the closing chorus, this time wearing a black and gold robe de styleand a glittering coronet.

Thirty-four names were listed as chorus members. Their final song was "I Love You," with words written for the occasion by Ida Cervo.

The orchestra played their opening overture as a finale.

ABM

Five-Year-Olds Look Up to Their Teacher — A Midget!

By **HUGH McPHERSON**

Laura Slabaugh teaches school in a classroom of miniature desks, pint-sized chairs and low-slung blackboards.

The furnishings are just right for her tiny first-grade pupils, who are 5 and 6 years old. But they suit Laura fine, too — because she's a 4-foot 3-inch midget.

The 30-year-old Boulder, Colo., teacher is just as short as the youngsters she instructs. But to Laura, that's no handicap.

"Children are honest and they don't embarrass me, either with pity or ridicule," Laura told The ENQUIRER last March 10.

"Kids naturally have a frank curiosity about why I'm so small. But they just come right out and ask me, so I tell them and that's the end of it."

Laura always tells them the truth — that she stopped growing because of gland trouble when she was a youngster.

"Once they understand, it's no longer discussed," she says.

More than 250 children have studied in Laura's classes in the eight years she has taught.

"Not one of them, as far as I can remember, ever gave me a moment's uneasiness about my height," Laura explained.

"Sometimes the children will complain about not being able to reach the top of the blackboard or a book on a high shelf.

"I tell them the same thing my mother told me years ago: 'There's a ladder over there. Stop feeling sorry for yourself and go use it.'

"When I was a little girl, the ladder was my equalizer — and I never forgot the lesson."

Laura, a graduate of Goshen, Ind., College, decided to become a teacher because she felt she could be of most use helping children.

"I felt the classroom was the one place where I could be completely myself and not worry about my height. And I was right," she says.

The principal at Laura's school, Lila Almgren, has nothing but praise for her: "She is one of the most popular and capable teachers we've had."

The students look up to her.

Although Laura has only first graders in her classes, she handles students up to 13 years old, including some 6-foot boys, during recreation periods.

"The big boys never bother me," she says. "Boys being boys, they're sometimes unruly — but they would be with any teacher."

MIDGET TEACHER Laura Slabaugh, 4-feet 3-inches tall, controls her class of first-grade grammar school students with ease. She finds that her height is no handicap and that the classroom is one place where she can be herself.

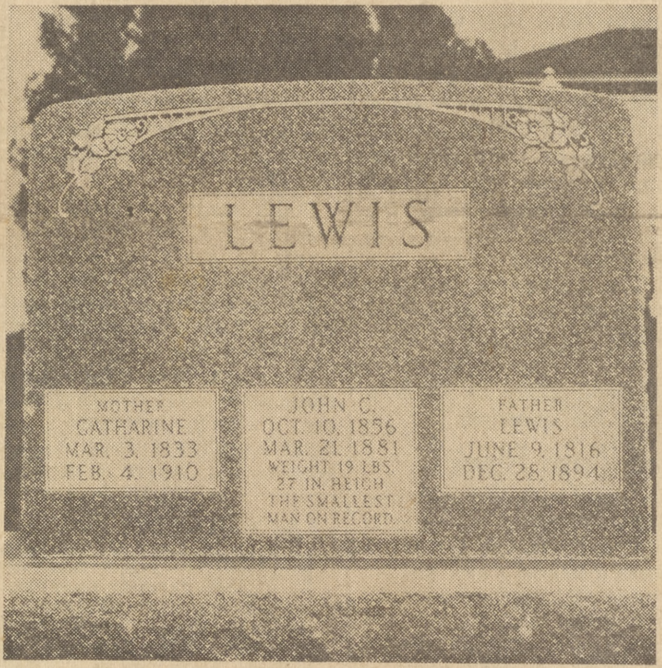
April 26, 1964

John Commodore Lewis, who died at the age of 24 in 1881 in Ixonia, Wis., will long be the topic of conversation in that community. He was only 27 inches tall and weighed but 19 pounds.

Milwaukee Journal - 6-16-64

Gravestone in Welsh Cemetery Proclaims 'State's Tiniest Man'

By ROBERT J. HIGGINS
Journal Special Correspondence



His gravestone in the Welsh cemetery at Ixonia, Wis., proclaims John C. Lewis as "the smallest man on record."

Ixonia, Wis. — He was 27 inches tall, weighed 19 pounds, and was 24 years old. Was John C. Lewis Wisconsin's smallest man?

Dead for 83 years, Lewis is buried here in the old Welsh Presbyterian cemetery. While the inscription on his gravestone calls him "the smallest man on record," there have been a few tinier people in the world—but not many.

Born near this Jefferson county community Oct. 10, 1856, Lewis died Mar. 21, 1881. Although there is no one left who knew him personally, he has relatives in the Ixonia area who learned much about him as children.

Lewis was an almost perfectly formed midget, judging from faded photographs still in the possession of Mrs. Clayton Lewis, a niece. He was known by his unusual middle name, Commodore.

Mrs. Lewis lived on a farm close to the cemetery until a recent move to Watertown. She recalled that she was told that Commodore died in his mother's arms "of old age" although he was a young man. She thinks perhaps that his unusual size somehow speeded up his life processes.

Mrs. Clayton Lewis is 69, so she was born after Commodore's death. She said, however, that he was a topic of conversation in her family when she was young. She has the same last name as the dwarf by coincidence. Her husband comes from a different Lewis family. She is related through her mother, Mrs. Evan Humphrey, who was a sister of John Commodore Lewis.

Commodore was born on an Ixonia farm. His parents, Lewis and Catharine Lewis, were immigrants from Wales who had seven children. He was the only one of tiny stature.

The Lewis children attended a one room school about a mile from home. Commodore's brothers and sisters sometimes carried him to school in their arms or, in winter, pulled him on a sled. He couldn't match steps with bigger people.

As he grew up Commodore was known locally as an eloquent speaker in both English and Welsh.

Commodore was a contemporary of Tom Thumb and was actually smaller than P. T. Barnum's famous dwarf. Tom Thumb (Charles Stratton) was born in Connecticut in 1837 and died in 1883. He was 31 inches tall as an adult.

Lewis did not become known nationally because he was never in show business. "He had offers to appear with circuses, but his parents wouldn't allow him to go," Mrs. Lewis recalled.

When he died it was at the time of a big snowfall and his tiny casket had to be carried to the Welsh church and adjacent cemetery by hand.

According to Mrs. Lewis, Commodore originally had a different stone on his grave. The present marker was placed there by one of his sisters.

Commodore never married. He has other nieces and nephews in this area.

How did John Commodore Lewis compare in size to other dwarfs? Statistics are incomplete, but he undoubtedly was one of the world's smallest adults.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica lists among dwarfs of the last 100 years a Chinese man who was 25 inches tall at the age of 42, a Spaniard who was 29 inches tall, a Dutchman who was 28 inches, and an Australian woman who was 35 inches tall.

The Guinness Book of World Records tells of Walter Boehning of Delmenhorst, Germany, who died in 1955 at the age of 48. He was only 20½ inches tall.

NEWS, THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1964 50

Earl Wilson

Unfair Ban or Just Some Small Talk?

NEW YORK. — **Robert Moses**, who's banned cotton candy and roastin' ears from World's Fair concessions, is reported to be against midgets.

"Mr. Moses just loves midgets and his position is 'Welcome, midgets,'" insist his spokesmen . . . nevertheless, some concessionaries say they've been warned, "No midgets."

I suggest that Mr. Moses get a midget show in there to prove his friendliness. Otherwise, there's likely to be a demonstration by a little people's organization, "MIDGE," with 500 midgets eating 500 cotton candies and 500 roastin' ears. Could be serious!

The Little People of America - is an organization of midgets with a membership exceeding 1000, HD'er Joe Steinberg, an ardent member, says: "The group offers little people a chance to meet others their own size - to make new friends - to find romance and make happy marriages. Anyone interested in joining, please call on me at exts. 606-258, Lab. Bur., CO."

BROOKLYN COLLEGE NEWSLETTER
PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT THE COLLEGE
VOL.XXVI June, 1964

Eleanor Ostrow (Registrar's Office) is district director of a unique organization known as Little People of America, Inc. The LPA is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization composed of members who stand no taller than 4'10" in height. Miss Ostrow would like to hear from any member of the staff who knows of any little person interested in the group. There are about 1600 members and a large number of them are planning to attend the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona from July 20-25, Miss Ostrow included.

INSIDE HEALTH
A PUBLICATION FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE N.Y.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
GEORGE JAMES, M.D., COMMISSIONER
Vol. XII June 19, 1964 NO. 6

100th YEAR — No. 153 MILLVILLE, N. J., MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1964

LITTLE PEOPLE MEET — A branch of the Little People of America met in Millville yesterday for the fourth consecutive year. Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Thompson, extreme right, were hosts at their home on N. Fourth St. Shown left to right, rear, are Vice President William Albaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dagit, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson and in front, Don and Danny Dagit and Clay Riley.

(Photo by Ralph)

Little People Meet In City

"Most of us are not in show business. We are qualified in the professions, technical field and other specialized fields." So said William Albaugh of Camden, vice president of Little People of America, yesterday during the annual meeting of Little People at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Thompson, 532 N. Fourth St., this city.

There were 40 members of the organization present yesterday. It marked the fourth year in a row that they have met in Millville. They like it here, they said, because this is a friendly community.

Albaugh, who poses as "The Little Squirt" for a softdrink company, pointed out that when a person lacks height, he must make up for that lack with other abilities.

An important topic at yesterday's meeting was a discussion of finding jobs for Little People. In order to qualify for membership in the organiza-

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Albuququre — July-1964

Little People District Meeting Is Slated for City On Sunday

Earl Warr of Goodyear, Ariz., will arrive here today to conduct a seminar for the Little People of America, Inc., Sunday from 1 - 3 p. m. at the home of Miss Virginia Cowardin, 1031 Vista Grande NW.

Warr is district director of district 10, which includes Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. Miss Cowardin is coordinator for this state.

Invitations have been sent all potential members and their families in the state and acceptances have been received from Reserve, Grants and Albuquerque. The meeting is open to any person under four-feet, ten inches tall and their families.

WARR INTENDS to acquaint guests with the aims of the organization and inform them of current plans for the sixth annual convention slated for July 19-23 in Phoenix.

Delegates will hold meetings at the Highway House Motel in Phoenix where they will receive reduced rates for rooms and meals during their stay. These rates will apply to "big" persons accompanying delegates.

Bob Brower of Phoenix, national president and frequent visitor to Albuquerque Little People meetings, will send greetings to the meeting Sunday and will welcome delegates to the convention in July. He will be assisted then by Mrs. Brower, Mr. Warr and all national officers.

Also expected Sunday are Mr. and Mrs. Clint Lester from Grants, who will be feted for their recent 18th wedding anniversary. Both Lesters, who own and operate the Grants Motel, are members of the organization. Lester served as national chaplain for two years and as district director until last year.

SPECIAL GUESTS who have been invited include A. R. Terwilliger, counselor of the local district office, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Myron Carson of the Employment Service of New Mexico and member of the Governor's Commission on Handicapped People and Paul Davidson of the Employment Security Commission of New Mexico.

These men have been asked to discuss informally job possibilities as well as vocational, social and physical problems encountered by the little person.

Atlantic City Press - JUNE 29, 1964

"LITTLE PEOPLE" MEET—Six~~teen~~-year-old Clay Riley of Millville, front, and William Albaugh of Camden, national vice president of Little People of America, exchange greetings at District 4 meeting Sunday in Millville. Others, from left, are Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Thompson, meeting hosts, and Miss Eleanor Ostrow, District 2 chairman. (Press Photo)

Millville Couple Plays Host To 40 Of U.S. 'Little People'

MILLVILLE — "If you don't have it from the knees down, you must have it from the shoulders up," declared William Albaugh of Camden, vice president of the Little People of America.

Albaugh, who poses as "The Little Squirt," for the trademark of the Squirt Softdrink Company of America, was one of 40 guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Thompson, 532 N. Fourth St. Of the guests, 31 are members of the Little Peoppe of America, a national organization of men and women who are 4 feet 10 inches or less in height and who are classified as midgets or dwarfs.

One of the most important topics duscussed, according to Albaugh, was the finding of jobs for "little people." He described his appearance on the network "Monitor" radio program and the correspondence received concerning job opportunities.

"We want people to know that most of us are not in show business, but are qualified professional people, technicians, office workers and have many other specializied skills," pointed out Albaugh. Included in the gathering at the Thompson home were a chemist, a telephone operator, secretaries, clerks, and probably the most famous, Meinhart Raabe who is "Little Oscar," for the Oscar Mayer Company.

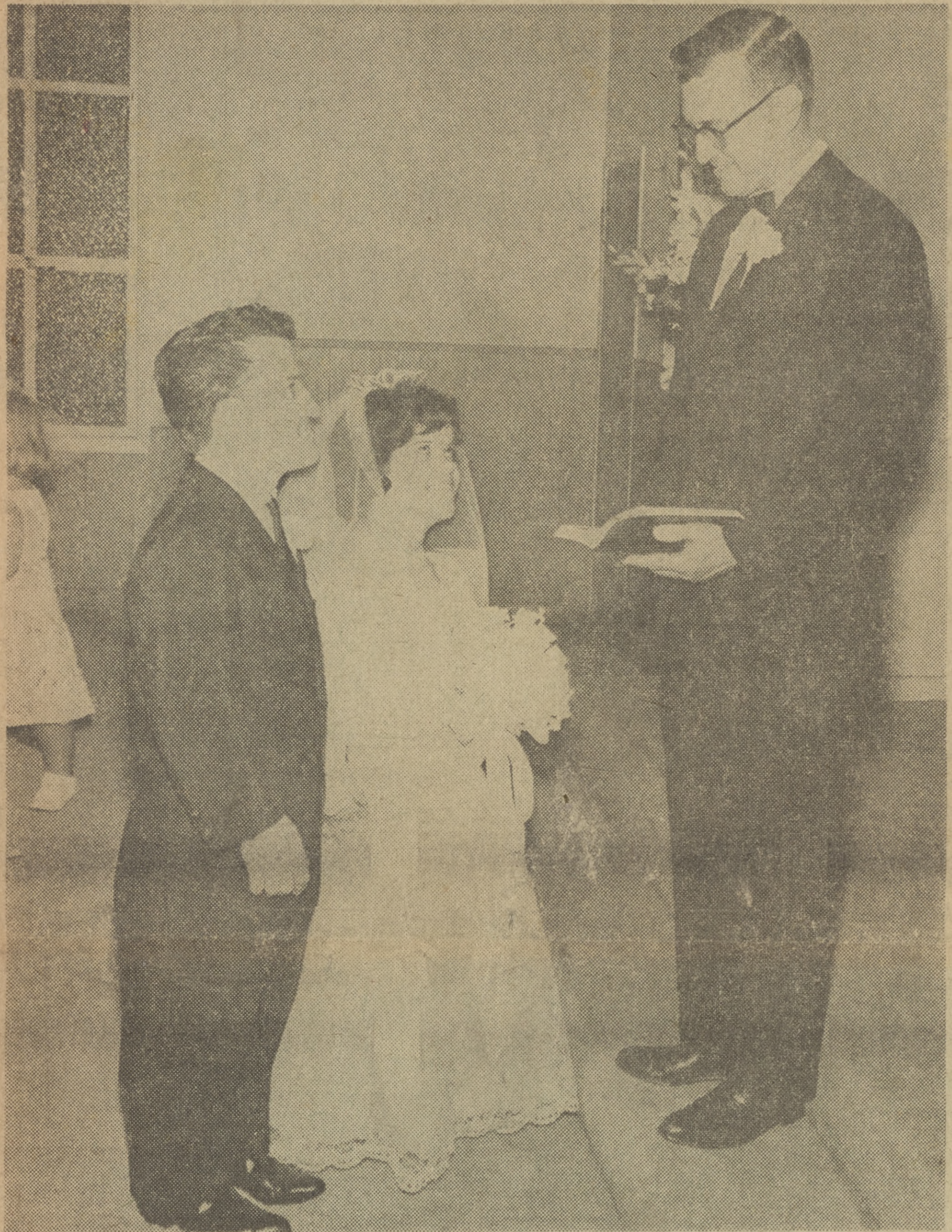
Also on the agenda were plans for the national convention in Phoenix, Arizona, slated for July 21-24. Representing the group from the New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey area, will be Albaugh, and Miss Eleanor Ostrow, district chairman, who is a secretary at Brooklyn College.

Welcomed as a new member was a "Little Little People" Clay Riley, of Millville, a teenager.

During the day, the men played baseball and pitced horseshoes while the women talked about their common clothing problem.

In addition to providing assistance with jobs, the little people of America have an adoption agency to place orphans who are "little people," so that they can be brought up in a similar environment. Albaugh said that the organization welcomes new members who fit into the midget or dwarf category. He stressed it is a non-profit organization.

Valley News - 6-25-64



BIG WEDDING — Marilyn England and Charles Mullens take marriage vows before the Rev. Dale Sexson of Burbank Church of Christ. Bride and groom, both midgets, exchanged vows Saturday. Bride is daughter of Mrs. Herbert Kinzel of 634 N. Pass Ave., Burbank, and attended John Burroughs High School.

The News photo

Wedding Bells Ring Out

6-25-64

LIKE MIDGET PLAY, BUT IT'S FOR REAL

The term "Little People" means something to everyone but to more than 1000 people in the nation it is the name of their social organization. It was at a meeting of the "Little People's Club" that Marilyn England, a John Burroughs High School student, first met Charles Mullens. Both midgets, they were united in matrimony Saturday in Burbank.

Mrs. Mullens, daughter of Mrs. Herbert Kinzel of 634 N. Pass Ave., is an active member of the organization and was a secretary in the "Little-Little Club" which is open to midgets under 16 years of age.

The newlyweds postponed their honeymoon so that they might attend the Little Peoples's Annual Convention in July at Phoenix, Ariz. The organization was founded in 1957 at the Reno, Nev., convention under the impetus of midget entertainer Billy Barty.

The aim of the organization is to provide a social organization for midgets and there is one chapter in the Los Angeles area which is very active, Mrs. Kinzel said.

She also has two other children who are midgets, Gordon 16, and Della 10. Gordon is a student at John Burroughs High School and Della is a student at Theodore Roosevelt school.

Mullins 26, is a machinist with Deutch Controls Co., in Los Angeles. He is a graduate of Bellflower High School and had been going with Miss England since last December.

The happy "Little People" will make their home in Bellflower.

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"However," he continued, "should any little person suffer disablement or a secondary handicap, — such as hearing, sight or mental defect, heart condition, or physical disability — he would certainly be eligible for counseling and assistance through our program."

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"Average cost for training per disabled person is $900," he said, "but the government figures that for each $1 spent in rehabilitation, the independent and self-sufficient disabled person will return in taxes within the next 10 years a ratio of 10-to-one."

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"LITTLE HARVEY"

(Real Midget Cowboy and his pet)

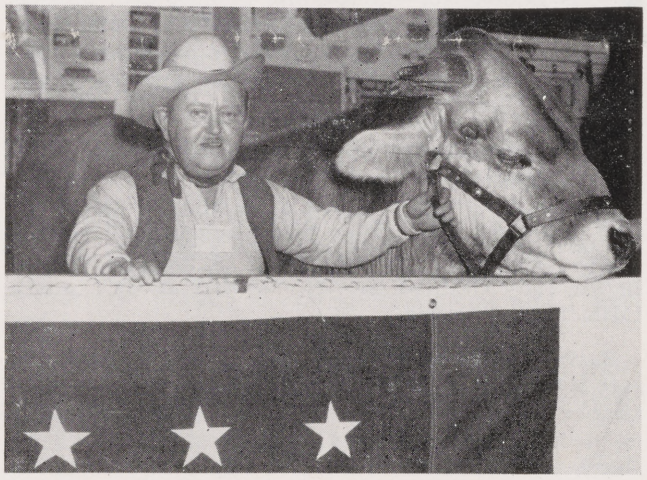
ELMER

ONLY KNOWN

3 EYED BULL

ON EARTH

Has Four Horns on His Head



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Elmer, a Brown Swiss bull, was born near Minneapolis in May, 1957. He has been exhibited since in most of the large state fairs and has appeared twice on television. His third (freak) eye has 60% vision. His regular eyes are normal. Elmer is in perfect health and gentle as a kitten, tame as a lamb. He has been seen by more than a half million people. He weighs about 2100 lbs and is the Daddy to four fine normal sized calves.

Little Harvey, his owner, "World's Smallest Midget Cowboy spent most of his life in various branches of show business; publicity, promotions, advertising and entertaining. He has shown in practically every state in the United States and most of Canada.

He is famous for entertaining in hospitals, prisons, and for the sick, crippled and needy all over the country. During World War I and II and during the Korean battles he appeared before thousands of men and women in service.

Little Harvey owned and operated his own troupe of midget entertainers in shows on radio and television and appeared in night clubs, fairs and expositions all over the U.S.A., featuring them indoor and outdoor shows. One of the largest groups of midgets to play in the Judy Garland movie: "Wizard of Oz", was a Little Harvey troupe.

Harvey traveled through nearly every State and part of Canada. He now for the past several years maintains a permanent address in Hollywood and works in pictures and advertising in the movies, also on TV shows. Several of the movies he appeared in recently are: Jumbo, Irma La Douche, The Long Corrid[illegible] Wild and Wonderful, Seven Days in May, The Greates[illegible]ry Ever Told. Several of these have not yet been released.

Above all, Little Harvey loves to travel, and enjoys meeting people, especially children.

LITTLE HARVEY says—

"I want all you to know that midgets are just like all of you nice people. There are tall ones, skinny one, fat ones—only we were all caught a little bit short.

"Midgets get married, establish homes, and raise families, too. Due to the fact that wherever I go, all over the country, people ask me if midgets marry and have children, how big will their children be, etc. For this reason I have written a book answering these questions. The book is entitled: "Questions Asked By Thousands About Midgets Answered."

"Others ask—do midgets have small homes, do they use small furniture, are they employed in professions other than show business, do they like sports, do they like to dance, drink, etc.

"So, if you are curious about little midget people, what they do, what they like, how they live, and a host of other questions send me 50 cents cash or money order (no stamps, please) to the address below and I will send you one of my books postpaid. Thank you.

"It has been most pleasant to meet and talk with you. Here is wishing you the best of health, wealth and good luck."

Sincerely,
LITTLE HARVEY

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HARVEY
HOTEL
HOLLYWOOD
38, Calif.

Suite 144 Phone HO 9-5801

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FRONT PAGE OF HOUSTON CHRONICLE JULY 22, 1964

HER GOAL: 'TALL' 5 FEET

4-Foot Girl, 17, Pins Hopes on New Hormone

Photo by Richard Pipes, Chronicle Staff

JEAN MUNNERLYN SUBJECT OF GROWTH RESEARCH
Someday She May Reach Normal Size

BY MOSELLE BOLAND
Chronicle Reporter

At 17, Jean Munnerlyn is four feet tall—the size of an average 7-year-old.

Her voice has the high lilt of the small child. She still has her baby teeth.

Jean, a high school senior in Beaumont, suffers from a rare disorder.

Her pituitary gland—the master gland of the body—does not produce the vital hormone which stimulates growth.

This also causes a deficiency in amount of other hormones produced by other body glands, hormones necessary for sexual maturity.

But bright, lively Jean is starting to adjust her thinking to the "tall world."

Discovered at 7

Ten years ago, when it first was discovered that she had the disorder, there was nothing to be done. The growth hormone simply was not available. But medical science now has caught up with her problem.

Jean is spending seven weeks in Methodist Hospital's Moody research unit. Baylor University college of medicine doctors are studying the way her body uses calcium with and without growth hormone.

The hormone must be extracted from the human pituitary gland, and has been in extremely short supply. The Baylor doctors said it takes about 200 such glands to treat one person a year.

Growth Is Slowed

"People with this hormone deficiency grow some," the doctors explained. "But normal children grow two inches a year. One of these children grows one-half to one inch a year."

And, when a normal child reaches adolescence, the sex hormones cause him to grow rapidly for a time, but also

(See **HORMONE**, Page 25)

Hormone Offers Girl New Life

FROM PAGE 1

causes the bones to mature so they do not grow any more.

The person with this type of dwarfism will continue to grow a little bit each year, even until they are 50 or 60 years old. This is the only one of the causes of dwarfism which can be treated effectively.

Untreated, however, they never become adolescents, the doctors said.

Jean is being given the growth hormone in injections every other day. She then will be given sex hormones to provide her last growing spurt.

She will wind up a little over five feet tall, the doctors said.

Opens New Vistas

The possibility that she now will be of normal height and maturity has had quite an impact on Jean.

"Until now, I always have had to consider a career where height would not be a handicap. Now, I don't have to any more, and I've got to think about it all over again."

She plans to go to college after she completes high school.

"And, just think, I'll have to get a new wardrobe every year," she added.

She also will be able to take up such activities as dancing and swimming, which she formerly could not participate in.

'It's going to take a lot of adjusting," she said. "I've always lived in a small world. Now I'm going to have to get used to the tall world."

Now on Diet

Because the doctors seek information about how her body converts the food it gets into various needed products, she must stay on a strictly controlled diet for the entire study.

She chose her menu when she went into the hospital: Cereal, orange juice, milk and a half piece of toast for breakfast; ground steak, mashed potatoes, milk and sliced pineapple for lunch; chicken, rice, corn, milk, and apple sauce for dinner.

She eats these same meals every day for seven weeks.

The doctors hope to get a better idea of how growth hormone works from their studies.

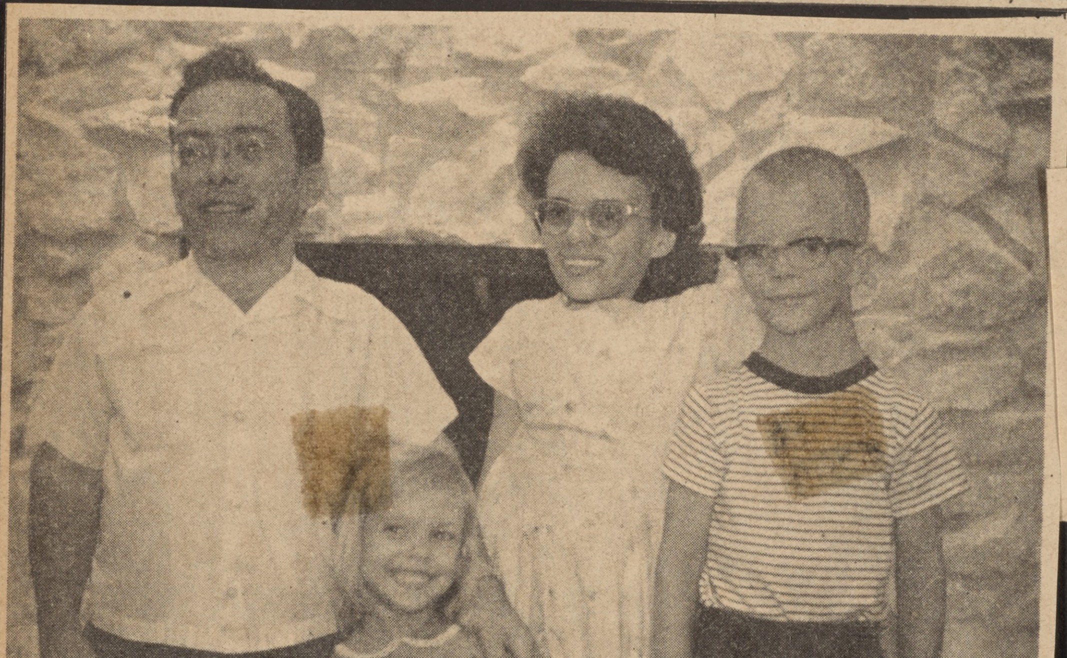
ANNIVERSARY EDITION

The RICHARDSON DIGEST

A CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPER FOR THE CONSERVATIVE HEART OF TEXAS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF RICHARDSON

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 49 RICHARDSON, TEXAS WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1964 PRICE 5¢



OFF TO PHOENIX this weekend to attend the national convention of Little People, Inc. are Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens and children, Sandra and Alan, 938 Blue Lake Circle. Mr. Kitchens is TI head of Technical Services Engineering in the Power Dept. and his wife Mary is a talented artist and pianist. Both are active in the organization for midgets and dwarfs, which meets annually to discuss problems and exchange ideas.

Richardson's "Little Family" Departs For Phoenix And Little Folks Confab

BY MARION TAYLOR

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kitchens and their children, Alan and Sandra, 938 Blue Lake Circle, will leave for Phoenix Sunday to attend the four-day national convention of Little People of America, Inc.

Mr. Kitchens, head of Technical Services Engineering in the Power Department of Texas Instruments, and wife Mary, an accomplished pianist and artist, are active members of LPA, the organization for midgets and dwarfs. They have found that the exchange of ideas, and discussions of problems common to little people in adjusting to a society of "big" folks can be very beneficial to members who are able to attend. Membership in the group numbers about 700.

SOME OF the physical problems the group will discuss are transportation and clothing. Lee feels that showing another little person the practical solution of having a car adjusted with longer gas and brake pedals and a raised seat, is time well spent. Much of the clothing of the men and women is custom made, but some men can wear teenagers' or boys' clothes and some women are able to wear ready mades by shortening the skirts. Employment is always a major subject for discussion.

"A lot of people have some preconceived ideas (sometimes incorrect) about what little people can and cannot do", Lee said. "Physical limitation is not always a consideration; one man I know runs a service station, another is a school custodian. There are many bookkeepers, secretaries and teachers. And I know at least one successful barber, an attorney and one other engineer, now retired".

EMOTIONAL problems are less easily solved, but to young little people , Lee stresses education and the importance of establishing a goal and working toward it. He himself set such a goal --to be an electrical engineer--and after graduation from a Ft. Worth high school, enrolled in the .cooperative plan at SMU. He worked at TI while receiving his formal education, and now supervises several engineers and technicians. Although most of his work is now administrative, he holds two patents on semiconductor devices and there are a couple more pending. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Texas. The family attends Preston Hollow Methodist Church, where Mary plays the piano in Sunday School and Lee is a member of the Board of Stewards.

Lee met his talented wife Mary on a blind date while she was an art major student at Texas Woman's University. A native of Lubbock, her father is long time Texas Tech engineering professor C. C. Perryman. She has worked as a free lance artist, but devotes her time now to caring for the couple's two captivating adopted children, Alan, 8 and Sandra, 4, and the family's stunning new contemporary home.

The imaginatively designed home, two years in the planning stage ("We nit-picked every single detail", Lee laughs), is a perfect blend of beauty and function. Eighteen lovely, strong color tones sing gaily throughout the white-walled rooms. Push-touch doors open kitchen cabinets Mary can reach with ease, soundless light switches are placed low, and counters and sinks in kitchen and two baths are 27" instead of the standard 31". The guest bath is regulation size. An absence of steps permits conservation of energy for more exciting tasks.

THE INDUSTRIOUS couple assert that they will try anything once, and one of the hobbies they are enjoying now is taking pictures and developing them in their own darkroom. Lee is a coin collector and Mary saves first day covers (first day new stamps come out). These, along with two walls of books are kept in the study. Workmen are now building cabinets in the workroom to hold other hobbies of the family.

Mary, a Dover P-TA'er and past president of the evening group, Dallas, TWU Alumnae, is chairman of the Adoption Committee for Little People of America, and as such acts as a go-between for little people who want to adopt little, little people, and the adoption agencies. She does no placement but keeps in contact with various state organizations and has some names of couples interested in adoption. Lee is chairman of the Texas and Louisiana area, and published a newsletter regularly. He is always "in" to prospective members and members of LPA. The Kitchens were hosts to a district meeting at which 32 members attended at their home in June.

THE LPA, founded by Billy Barty, a show business personality, was launched in 1958 on a Ralph Edwards "This is Your Life" show. The first meeting was in 1960 in Las Vegas, and interest has grown steadily since that time. One of the highlights of next's week's gathering will be a fashion show. "Where else can we little people model in a fashion show?", Mary says matter-of-factly.

A talent show is scheduled, as well as education panels and seminars, election of a king and queen, bowling tournaments and baseball. Lee has served as education chairman, working with a scholarship group who helps younger little people with their college education. The group contributes to the cause of science when they cooperate annually with a Minneapolis doctor who brings his X-ray equipment to the conventions and sets up a clinic for research work he is doing.

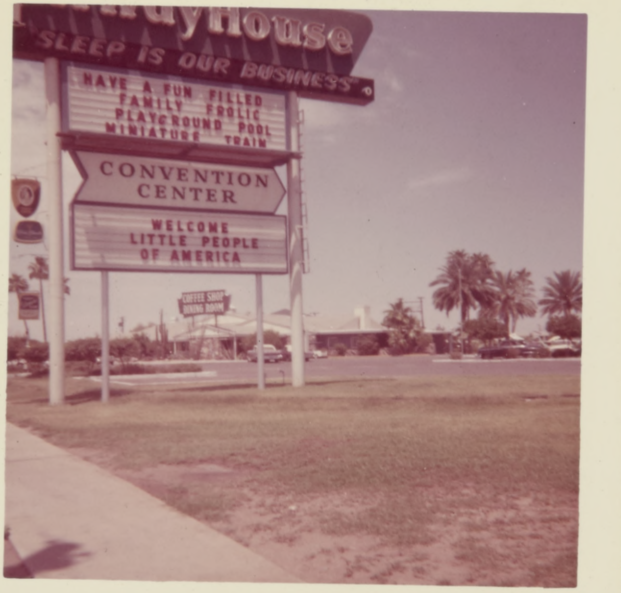
Although definitely not a lonely .hearts club, the LPA conventions are not without their fringe benefits, say the Kitchens. A number of weddings have occurred as a result of the get togethers, the first of which was that of the founder, Billy Barty, who met his bride at the very first meeting.

Arizona Daily Star-7-22-64

Little People Champions

Miss Lee Landry, left, of New Orleans, La., and Bobby Fowler, right of Mason City, Iowa carried off top honors today in the Little People of America National Bowling Tournament in Phoenix. Miss Landry, a 4-foot school teacher, had a three-game score of 229. Fowler, 4-6, defended his men's title by knocking over 517 pins in three games. The Little People organization is now conducting its sixth annual convention in Phoenix. (AP Wirephoto)

Phoenix 1964



'Little People' Meet To Plan Convention

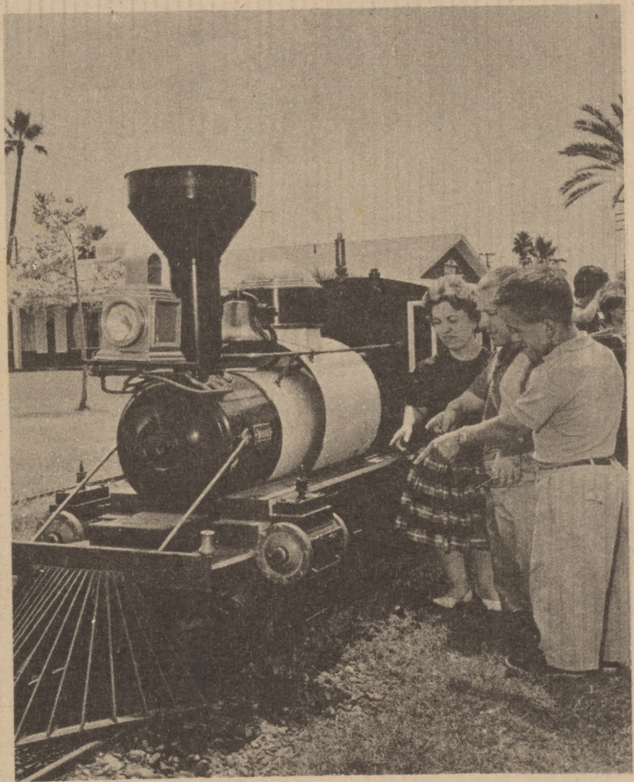
Area members of the Little People of America, attended a pre - convention meeting in Scottsdale June 3, in the home of Bob Brower.

The sixth annual convention of the Little People will be held at the HiwayHouse July 19 through 23.

Earl Warr, district chairman, of Avondale, said that about 200 members are expected to attend.

July - 1964

The Right Size



LITTLE PEOPLE CONVENTION -- Mr. and Mrs. George Baehm from Long Island, N.Y., and Bruce Merrill, of Taylor, Wis., examine the steam engine at the Hiway House Hotel, 3148 E. Van Buren where they are attending the Convention of Little People of America this week. (American Photo by Tom Mitten)

Little People Open Meet Tomorrow

The sixth annual convention of Little People of America starts with registration at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Hiway-House Hotel, 3148 E. Van Buren.

Dr. Leonard O. Langer Jr., assistant professor of radiology at the University of Minnesota, will address the group at 9:30 a.m. Monday on "Medical Research Projects Involving Little People."

Nominations for king and queen of the five-day convention will be submitted at the conclusion of Dr. Langer's talk.

Donald Bennett, senior field investigator for the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, will discuss fair labor standards applicable to little people at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Little People Will Gather For Big Time

Some people do things in a big way and one group which does is Little People of America.

Their national convention will begin Sunday at HiwayHouse, 3148 E. Van Buren.

To be a member of the group, a person must not be more than 4-feet-10-inches tall.

About 150 members from throughout the country are expected for the meeting, according to convention chairman Earl Warr of Goodyear.

Events will include a talent show featuring Billy Barty, Hollywood, one of the group's founders; a bowling tournament at the Family Bowl, 4501 E. McDowell; a fashion show for little people; and coronation of a king and queen.

Bob Brower, 825 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale, national president and comptroller at the Scottsdale Smitty's Big Town, noted that the group's motto is "Think Big."

ARIZONA Daily NEWS

Wednesday, July 22, 1964

America's Littlest People's Biggest Convention

Midget Magician Has Combined Act

By JOYCE TRENT
DAILY NEWS Staff Writer

Joe White was a natural for a disappearing act, being only half-size anyway.

But when the midget magician decided to combine that art with the teaching of religion a lot of people stooped down and took notice.

White illustrated his technique yesterday at the annual convention of the Little People of America at the Highway House.

He is one of 100 delegates. Others in the group include an 80-year-old midget woman who works full-time as a proof reader and two third generation midgets.

White began his career with Ringling Bros. Circus. After the big circus fire he joined a carnival and was billed as Prince Tiny, the magician.

The turning point in his life came in Wisconsin where he met the girl who later became his wife.

"She was an active worker in the church. I thought, why not combine magic with religion and that's how it all started," White explained.

During the week now he travels for a meat packing firm and on Sunday he teaches Sunday School in his unusual way.

He calls his Sunday School act, "The Gospel in a Nutshell."

He shows a box with a block in it engraved with a cross. He closes the box, saying, "And they placed Jesus in a sepulchre."

Next he opens the box. Its empty. "And they found him gone."

Then from a hat he pulls the block. "But he was reborn."

Displaying an empty picture frame he says, "These are the empty hearts of some boys and girls." When he next shows it, it contains a picture of Christ to illustrate what happens when God fills the heart.

White makes three ropes blend in the air to show the Trinity, and pours endless amounts of water from a tiny vial onto a toy ship to portray the story of Noah.

He's received little criticism and many compliments for his way of teaching, he says, and has found fulfillment for himself.

Lola Cox is not a magician but she's a sprightly little midget and to look at her one couldn't guess she is 80 years old. She proved yesterday she wasn't a bit timid either.

In the heart of Goldwater country she proclaimed she didn't plan to vote for the Republican senator for president.

"I don't think he's for the little people," she said.

"I mean the working people, not just us midgets," she explained.

She hails from San Francisco where she is a proofreader for a type setting service. After 44 years on the job she thinks she may retire next year. "I'm not sure though," she added with a twinkle in her eyes.

It's very rare for a family to have third generation midgets. But that's the case with the Johnny Clifton family of Austin, Tex., who are attending the convention.

Their granddaughters are accompanying them. Clifton was the midget who traveled for Buster Brown shoes.

The midgets are an entertaining lot for the motel personnel. The employes were warned of the group's size before they arrived, especially the bartenders who, otherwise, might have thought they had had too much when a midget strode up to the bar and said:

"Let me have a tall one."

And that's what some of them did.

Pin Points

July - 1964

Little People Coming to Town

By ABE GUTIERREZ

ONE OF THE MORE interesting tournaments to come this way in quite a spell is the Little People of America singles contest scheduled July 21 at Family Bowl.

It is strictly for midgets.

The tournament is part of activities planned for the group's national convention here.

M. R. Brower of Phoenix will have a big say during the proceedings. Besides being the tallest member (4-10), he's also the Little People's national president.

Brower says there are some pretty fair country bowlers in the organization. Some carry 160 averages or better.

And there are others who are barely big enough to roll the ball down the lane. Brower says there'll be one competing who is only 2 feet, 9 inches. That's right, less than a yard tall!

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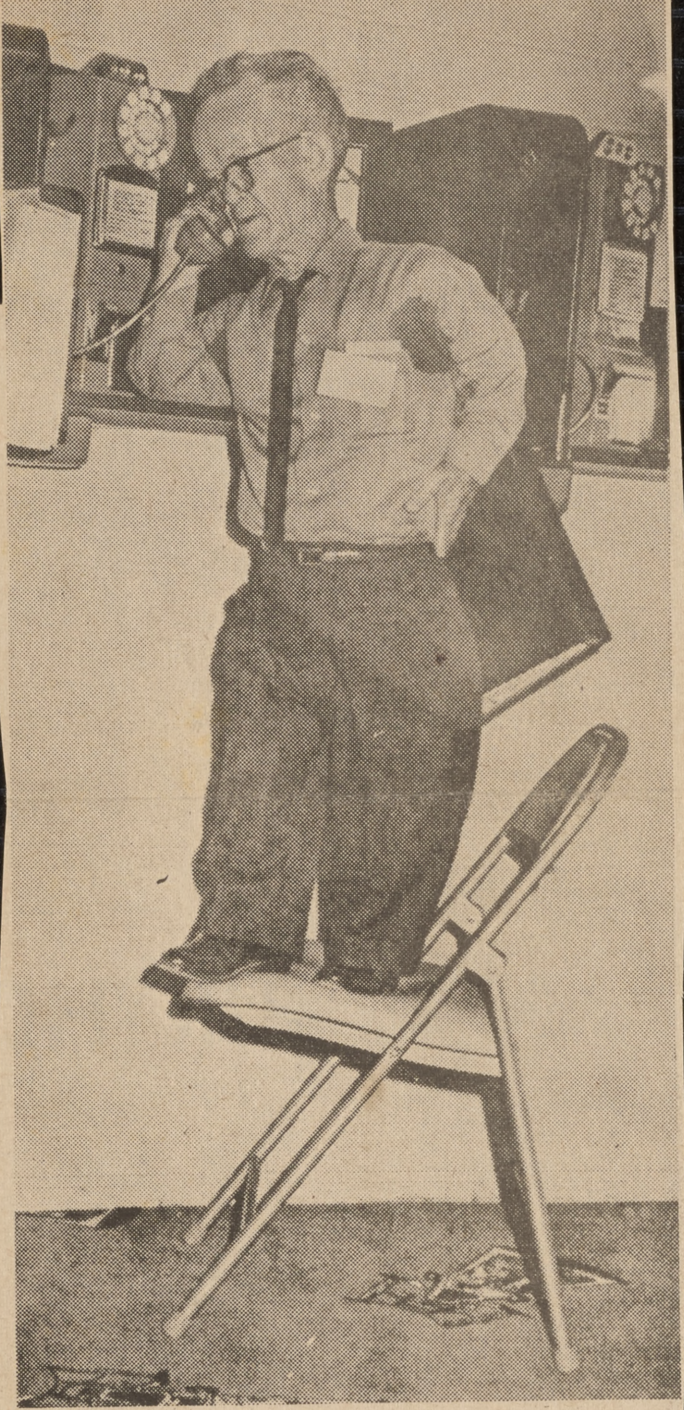
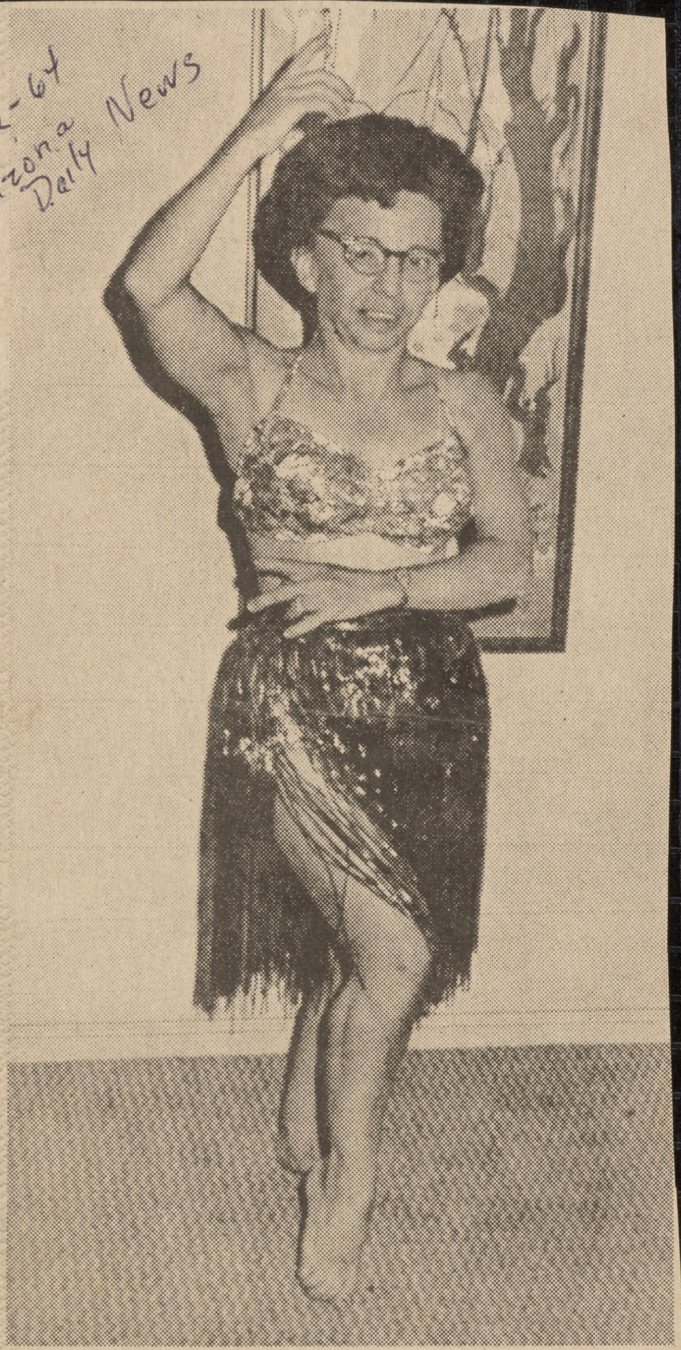


LONG DISTANCE?--Lee Wright of Hooks, Tex., demonstrates how a midget uses a pay phone.

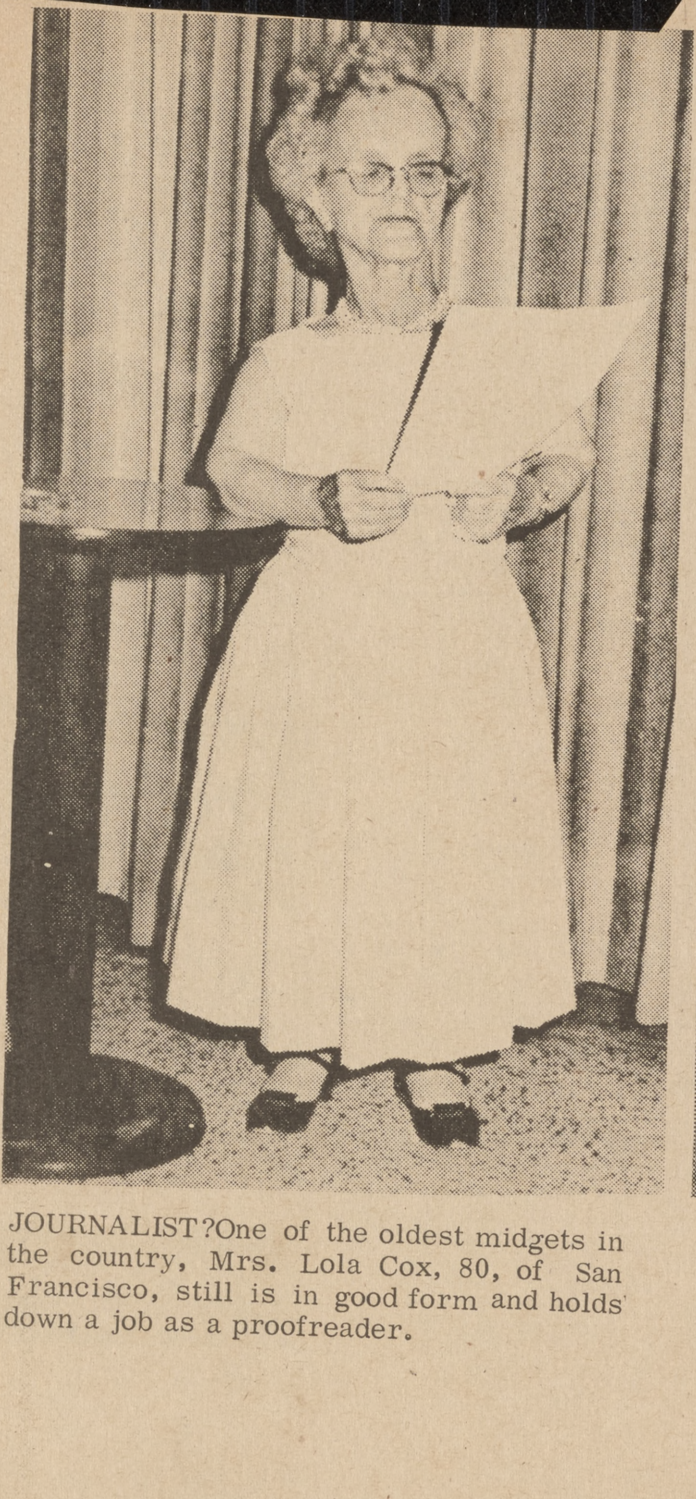
7-64



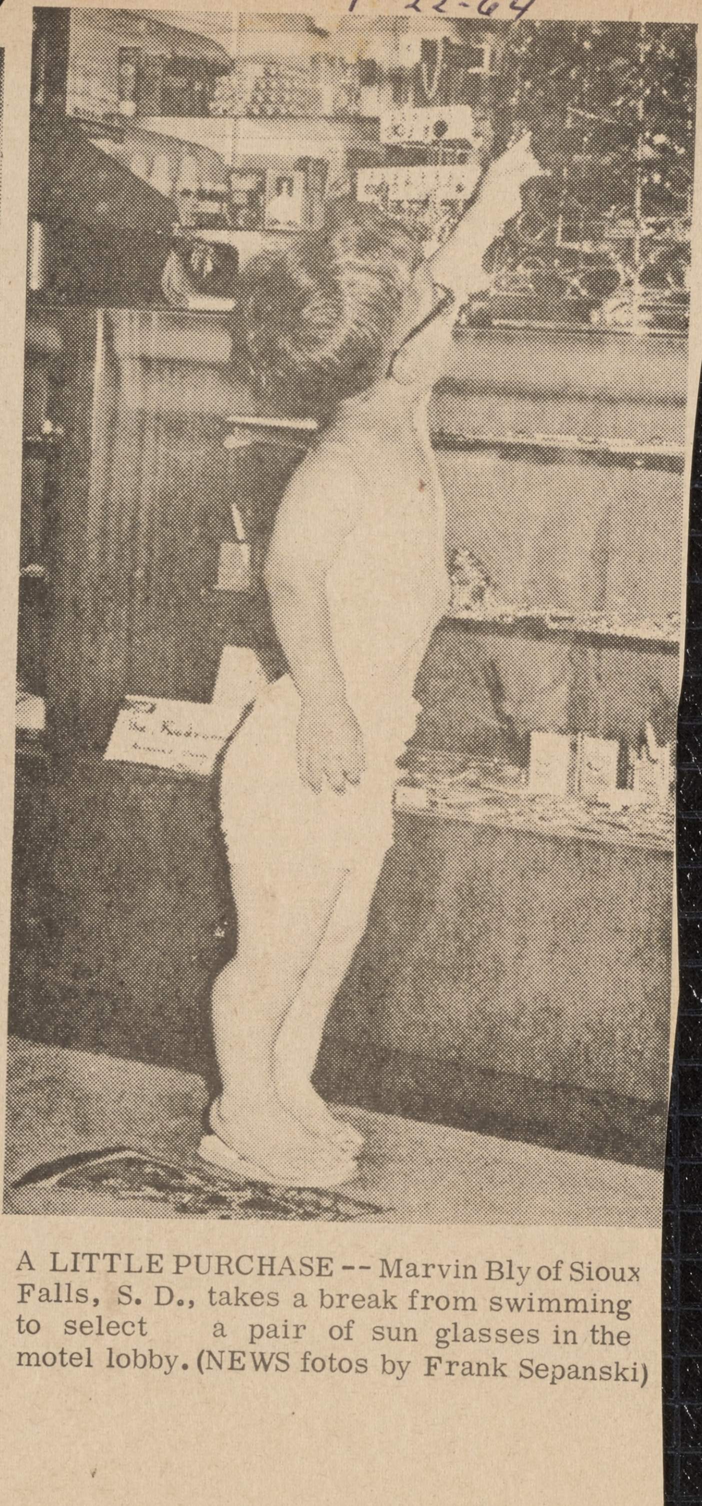
7-22-64
Arizona Daily News

ALOHA--Mrs. Marcella Brower, wife of the national president of the Little People of America, does the hula at a Hawaiian dance during the convention yesterday.

Arizona Daily News
7-22-64



JOURNALIST? One of the oldest midgets in the country, Mrs. Lola Cox, 80, of San Francisco, still is in good form and holds down a job as a proofreader.



A LITTLE PURCHASE -- Marvin Bly of Sioux Falls, S. D., takes a break from swimming to select a pair of sun glasses in the motel lobby. (NEWS fotos by Frank Sepanski)

Daily NEWSfotos

By Frank Sepanski

Arizona Daily News
7-22-64

SHORT HARD DAY--National president Bob Brower sprawls on a motel couch after an exhausting day at the convention. The convention will last through Thursday.

Women Set Style Flair

Phoenix Gazette
July 1964

By CAROL OSMAN BROWN
Gazette Staff Writer

Most individuals are familiar with the classic novel "Little Women," but few have an opportunity to attend an actual gathering of doll-like ladies.

However, this week the Little People of America, Inc. are holding their sixth annual national convention in Phoenix. Thus a wide range of midgets, dwarfs and miniature people from all parts of the nation are at the Hiway-House.

Wherever there are women there is bound to be an interest in fashion. So it was only natural that one of the highlights of the confab, which concludes today, was a style show.

"Little People either buy small-size big people's clothing and children's apparel, have garments tailored, or make their own clothes," reveals Mrs. Bob (Marcella) Brower, wife of the group's retiring president.

Shoes also present a major problem. Most of these women admit that they purchase high heeled shoes from speciality houses whenever possible but often have to resort to wearing children's footwear.

"We can get by with using standard size furniture, office equipment, and other items, but our clothes just have to be styled on a smaller scale," quipped one vivacious little miss.

Chairman of the fashion show, Marcella explained that the styles were divided into three categories: tailor-made, hand-made and store-bought, altered items. Everything from sportswear to evening attire was modeled by the Little Women, who amazed the audience with their versatile sewing ability.

One of the most enjoyable showings was that of children's clothing. Models were Little People's children who wore items created by their parents or grandparents. Store-bought infant and baby clothes can often be worn by these children till they reach ages of late childhood.

"But as we 'grow up' it becomes harder and harder to find more sophisticated clothing needed for attending dances, night clubs and restaurants," admitted a small charmer, clad in stunning formal attire for the show.

A surprise feature of the annual event was the appearance of three little couples who were wed during the past year. "Since many of the members had wished to attend the marriages, but were unable to, I thought it would be nice if they could at least see the brides as they were on their wedding day," smiled Marcella, who served as matron of honor for Mrs. Maurice Alden of Phoenix.

First place winners in the fashion show were Miss Barbara De Volt of Cleveland, Ohio, who won in the tailor-made class wearing a black chiffon, hand-beaded evening gown she created herself; Miss Frances Billingsley of Snyder, Tex., who wore a ready-made dressy white cotton for the store-bought division. Winner of the self-made cotton category was Mrs. Billy Barty of N. Hollywood, Calif., wife of the actor who formed the organization in 1955. She appeared in a pale blue ensemble accented by an attractive white lace coat. Her accessories were of matching blue.

Short Texan Tall To Little People

Phoenix, Ariz., July 21 (AP)—An undersized Texan today was chosen for the big job of president of the Little People of America.

Lee Kitchens, of Richardson, Texas, was elected to succeed Robert Brower, of Scottsdale, Ariz., at the group's sixth annual convention in Phoenix. Gloucester, N.J., was picked as the site for next year's meeting.

William Albaugh, of Camden, N.J., was reelected vice president. Others elected: Charles Bedow, Owatoona, Minn., treasurer, and Frances Conville, Decatur, Ga., secretary.

Members of the organization may be no taller than 4 feet 10 inches. The motto of the Little People is "Think Big."

BALTO. SUN JULY 21-1964

A surprise feature of the Little People's fashion show came when brides appeared to give members a glimpse of their ensembles. Models receive a helping hand from their respective husbands. From left are Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Alden of Phoenix and Mr. and Mrs. George A. Baehm III of Great Neck, N.Y.

Phoenix Gazette - July 64

Gazette Staff Photos by Carol Osman Brown

July - 64

First place prize winners at the fashion show presented by Little People of America, Inc., at the HiwayHouse, were: Miss Frances Billingsley of Snyder, Tex., left, Miss Barbara De Volt of Cleveland, Ohio, on chair, and right, Mrs. Billy Barty of North Hollywood, Calif., wife of the organization's founder. Chairman of the show was Mrs. Bob Brower of Phoenix, center. She was assisted by Miss Frances Conville of Decatur, Ga., second left, new national secretary.

Arizona Daily News
7-22-64

YOUNG 'UN--The youngest midget at the convention was 6-year-old Libby Kelly born of normal size parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly of Denver, Colo. She stands 26 1/2 inches high.

Little People Elect Leader; Yup, A Texan

A small Texan has been handed the big job of president of the Little People of America for 1964-65.

Elected during balloting today was Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Tex.

He takes over the post held by Bob Brower, 825 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale.

More than 125 Little People are meeting this week for their sixth annual convention at HiwayHouse. Next year's get-together will be in Gloucester, N.J.

Re-elected vice president was William Albaugh of Camden, N.J. Treasurer will be Charles Bedow, Owatonna, Minn., and Frances Conville, Decatur, Ga., secretary.

Texas - July - 1964

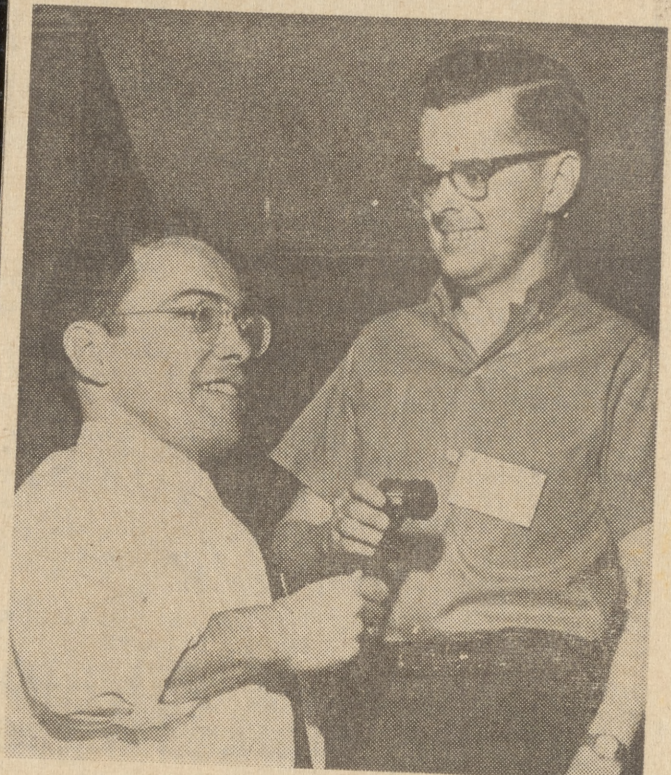
Kitchens Named Prexy

Lee Kitchens, 938 Blue Lake Circle, was elected president of the Little People of America last week in Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Kitchens, head of Technical Services Engineering in the Power Department of Texas Instruments, his wife Mary and children Alan and Sandra, were subjects of a feature story in the Digest two weeks ago, immediately preceding their trip to attend the group's sixth annual national convention.

District 8, the Texas and Louisiana area of which Mr. Kitchens was chairman before his election to the presidency, captured several prizes at the gathering of 125 little people from all over the country. In the clothes "you make yourself" category in the fashion show Mrs. Kitchens won second place for a silk party dress she made and modeled. Persons in the district earned awards in all three categories of the fashion show, as well as in the bowling tournament. The Kitchens' son Alan escorted sister Sandra in the children's division of the style show.

Other officers who were elected to serve in LPA were: William Albaugh of Camden, N.J., vice president; Charles Bedow, Owatonna, Minnesota, treasurer; and Frances Conville, Decatur, Georgia, secretary. Billy Barty, well-known show business personality, is the new editor of the group's monthly newsletter.

Mr. Kitchens welcomes any and all inquiries from little people (they may be no taller than 4 feet 10 inches), and/or from other persons anywhere in the country who are acquainted with little people. The organization, whose appropriate motto is "Think Big", will meet next year at Gloucester, New Jersey.



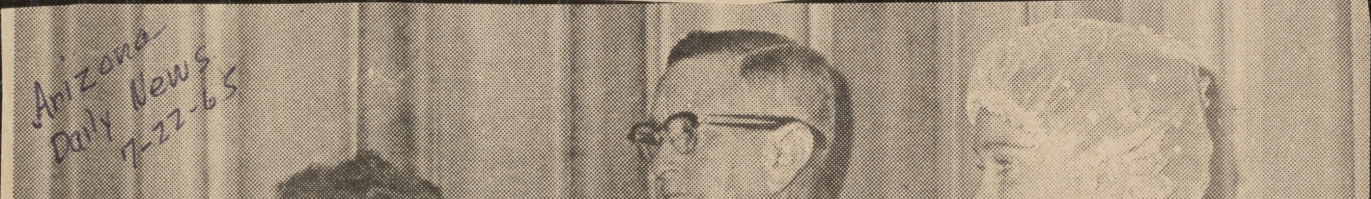
Gazette Staff Photo

New president of Little People of America, Lee Kitchens (left), is congratulated by Bob Brower, outgoing president.

Phoenix Gazette - 7-23-'64

Arizona
Daily News
7-22-64

ABRACADABRA—Midget magician Joe White of Kenosha, Wisc. combines his art with the Gospel. He travels all over the country pulling crosses out of hats and performing other tricks to illustrate religious texts.



Arizona
Daily News
7-22-65

THIRD GENERATION--The youngsters in this picture are third generation midgets. They are the grandchildren of Johnny Clifton, also shown, who travels the country for Buster Brown shoes. From Left, granddaughter Donna Lee Swensen, 13; Mrs. Clifton; granddaughter Nancy Gayle, 18. They reside in Austin, Tex.

125 'Little People' Size Up the World

New York Post - July 21, 1964

Phoenix, Ariz., July 21 (AP)—An organization devoted to elevating little people to new heights is holding its sixth annual convention here.

Some 125 delegates are registered for the five-day convention of the Little People of America.

While they may be small in size—members must be 4 foot 10 inches or under—they have a big program.

One of their goals is to help the "little littles" their name for the sub-normal size children of both little people and big people.

"Education is one of our main probems" said organization president Bob Brower yesterday. Brower one of the biggest of the little people at 4 feet 10, is controller of a large department store in Scotsdale, Ariz.

"We are not handicapped to the point ew should be put in handicapped schools," he said.

Brower explained that many schools for the handicapped run only through the eighth grade. Then, Brower said, the dwarf or midget youngster often is taken out of the sheltered atmosphere and thrown into a regular high school where he must face the stares and sometimes cruel remarks of new classmates.

Barbara J. DeVolt, a 3-foot-6 commercial artist from Cleveland, agreed with Brower that little littles should attend regular schools. She said she attended a special elementary school and because of this she could not adjust to being one of the little people until she was 20.

Brower said 10 to 15 little littles were at the convention.

1964 - convention

Size Is Nothing To Little People Who Think Big

Size means nothing.

At least it doesn't to Bob Brower, 825 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale.

As national president of Little People of America, Brower today declared, "We do not believe the world should adjust to us."

SPEAKING FOR more than 100 Little People meeting at HiwayHouse, 3148 E. Van Buren, Brower added, "We might as well get used to our height."

Members of the organization measure under 4 feet 10 inches tall.

But all of them think big.

Brower said one of the group's major purposes is to "work with children and big parents of 'little' children."

The idea, Brower added, is to help parents realize "little people can do anything anyone else can do."

BACKING Brower up was Billy Barty, Hollywood actor since age three. Barty founded Little People of America in 1957.

"Size has nothing to do with success," Barty declared.

Members of the organization are "secretaries, school teachers, lawyers and doctors," he said. Brower, for example, is comptroller at Smitty's Big Town in Scottsdale.

A high percentage of "Little People" also has college degrees.

Barty himself holds a bachelor's degree in journalism. He took time out from the movies between 1942 and 1950, setting his sights on a career as sports writer.

WITH THE advent of television, however, Barty was too busy to pursue his reporting aspirations.

The veteran actor will start his own half-hour children's show next fall in Los Angeles.

Both Barty and Brower agreed there are numerous problems peculiar to "Little People."

But the two also believe most of them can be overcome.

The national organization acts as a contact between orphans homes and adoption agencies handling the placement of "little" children.

THE GROUP also helps new members to solve clothing problems and to realize the importance of education.

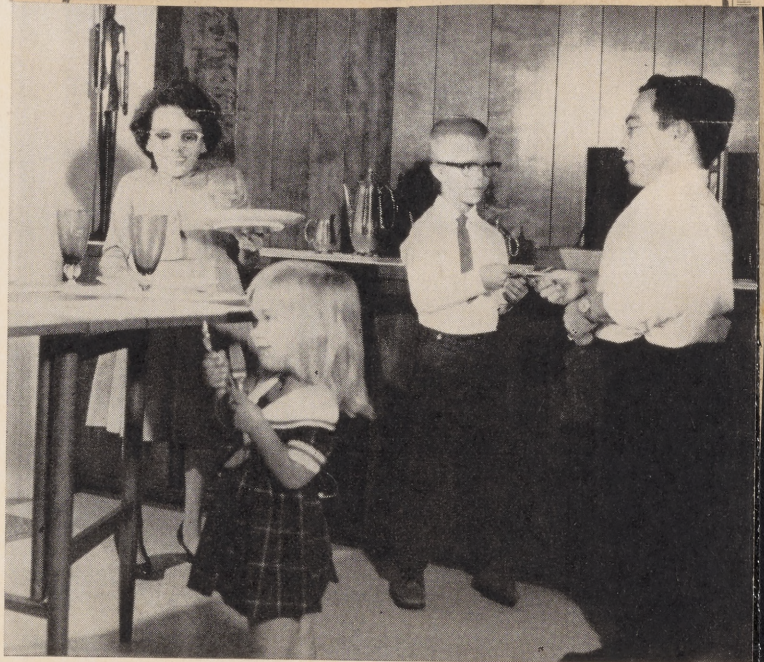
"We like to think we're building people," Brower said.

Most necessary ingredient for this task is "thinking big."

Carrying out this theme will be convention programs running through Thursday.

"ANY PERSON who is different," says Lee Kitchens, "has trouble adjusting to it and adjusting to society." Lee, four feet one and president of Little People of America, has forged a productive life for himself and his family, and he wants to help others. LPA has 1,100 of the country's estimated 5,000 little people on its rolls, and Lee is looking for the rest. Besides fellowship, the group provides such practical information as how to get a job, adopt children, and find furniture. Some members are taking part in research to give others hope for normal growth.

Lee, his wife Mary, and their two adopted "little littles," Sandra, four, and Alan, eight, live in a new, eight-room house at 938 Blue Lake Circle, Richardson, Texas. Lee is an engineer at Texas Instruments in Dallas, where the Kitchenses are leaders at Preston Hollow Methodist Church. ☐



In their specially designed Texas home, Lee Kitchens and his family of little people enjoy a comfortable world that is within their reach.

Little People Queen 'Thinking Big'

"The only thing we can't be is tall," Miss Virginia Geddes says of her fellow members of the Little People's Club. How to convince prospective employers of this was one of the major problems discussed at the recent Little Peoples Convention in Phoenix.

Although it was her first convention, Miss Geddes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Swim of Ventura, was chosen queen. She shared a throne with King Jerry Maren of Hollywood, of Oscar Mayer fame, and brought home a trophy and "a whole new perspective on my problems.

Employment is far from being the only worry of the very short. In the daily discussions at the convention, she talked over many others such as over-protection by parents and the operation of machinery built for those with longer reach. The latter problem she found had been solved by many of the convention delegates through the rebuilding of kitchen equipment and automobile mechanisms for easier handling.

Between sessions, the delegates attended dances, bowling matches, banquets and a coronation ball.

The Little People's organization, which is seeking more members, has many occupations represented, including lawyers, teachers and electricians. During the war many were occupied in aircraft industry where their small size was found to be an advantage for tight places.

"We resolved to urge all little people to get all the education they can," she said, "and preferably on their own. They need the independence it can give." She herself is now attending Sawyers Business College, having discovered she enjoys office work while doing it for the Crippled Children's Society.

Membership in the club is restricted to midgets and dwarfs who are four feet 10 inches or less. Miss Geddes, the only Ventura County member, urges others who may be interested to write Bob East, California district president, 3807 Brookdale Ave., Oakland.

Miss Geddes is also active in the Ventura County "Chin up Club," for handicapped adults and young people. But her enthusiasm is obviously now for the Little People and her determination is to get to the state convention in San Francisco on Labor Day and the next national convention in New Jersey.

Meanwhile, she is observing the club motto — "Think Big!"

QUEEN OF THE LITTLE PEOPLES CONVENTION, Viriginia Geddes, displays the trophy awarded her. Selected king at the same time in Phoenix was Jerry Maren, one-time representative of the Oscar Mayer company.

Gazette - July 23 1965

Gazette Staff Photo

ROYAL COUPLE

Jerry Maren of Los Angeles and Virginia Geddes of Ventura, Calif., are new king and queen of Little People of America. They were selected at annual convention of group at HiwayHouse.

8-16-64

Even Queens Can Come In Small Packages

By JUDY IRICK

"THERE'S ONLY one thing we can't do, and that is be tall," says petite Virginia Geddes of Ventura, who reigns as queen of the Little People.

Virginia, 20, who was elected recently at the Little People's sixth annual convention recently in Phoenix, Ariz., says: "This convention did the most for me. I realized that I wasn't the only one with the same problems."

Virginia, or Ginny, who measures three feet nine and one-half inches and weighs 75 pounds, didn't even know any other little people until four years ago when she joined the Los Angeles chapter of Little People of America Inc.

Joining "made me feel better," says Ginny. It gave me the opportunity to talk problems over with other people of the same size—the main purpose of the organization, she says.

The organization is not a lonely hearts group, she stressed, although two marriages came from within the Los Angeles chapter this spring.

LITTLE PEOPLE'S QUEEN — Ginny Geddes of Ventura who was recently elected queen at the Little People's national convention Phoenix, Ariz., shows her trophy to her mother, Mrs. John Swin.

GINNY, WHO has led a relatively normal life, says the worst years were during junior and senior high school although she says she had many friends. It was toughest "when it came to Friday nights," she said, explaining that her size caused a dating problem.

Having moved to Ventura from the Los Angeles area five years ago, Ginny is a 1962 graduate of Ventura High School.

Since graduation, she has worked as a babysitter and as an office worker for the Crippled Children's Society. Her job with the society gave her an interest in secretarial work, and she enrolled in a business course at Sawyer Business School, Ventura, in April.

When she finishes the course at the end of the year, she hopes to find a job in Ventura. After a year of experience here, she would like to move to the Los Angeles or San Francisco area.

"All little people should get a college education or some other type of education. If you're little, you've got to have more to offer," she says.

Putting employment at the top of the list of problems for little people, Ginny says driving and clothing are also problems.

The driving problem will soon be solved for her with car pedal extensions her brother is making. Then she will learn how to drive, she says.

As for clothes, a petite five dress, chopped off considerably at the bottom, will usually fit, as do size four shoes.

Around home "I've been pampered a little," she admits. She lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Swin, and three younger sisters at 50 W. Flint St.

Her sisters have always been willing to fetch things from high perches, a habit which she is trying to break.

"Let them do it themselves," Ginny urges parents of little people.

ABOUT 1,000 persons, representing all 50 states, belong to Little People of America. Urging all little person to join, Ginny said, they may contact her or Robert East, district chairman, 3807 Brookdale Ave., Oakland. The only requirement for membership is that the person be a dwarf or midget, four feet 10 inches or under.

The national organization was started by Billy Barty of North Hollywood in 1957. Barty, a football player in his junior college days, showed that size needn't be a handicap, Ginny points out. She herself enjoys swimming, bowling and badminton.

The Los Angeles chapter holds square dances, picnics, swimming parties and other activities in addition to their monthly meetings, she added. The chapter also has a baseball team, the Hollywood Shorties, who play against other Little People's teams and Little Leaguers.

Little people under 17 years of age may join the Little Littles, a branch organization.

CAN DO 'ANYTHING' — Despite her petite size, Ginny Geddes tackles the same things most other 20-year-old girls would. Joining her for a piano duet here is her 12-year-old sister, Lynette Geddes.

LITTLE MAN, BIG JOB—Earl Marr, local real estate developer, in the Westeside area, was recently elected to another three year term to head the Southwest District of the Little People of America.

Small Man With A Big Heart

Earl Marr Elected To Post

Earl Marr is a little man with a big job concerning little people — under 4 feet 10 inches to be exact.

Marr, a local Westside real estate developer, has been re-elected district chairman of the Little People of America for another three years. He was named to the post, covering Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona, at the Little People's Convention held July 19 through 23 at the HiwayHouse in Phoenix.

Earl said about 125 members attended the convention and that over 1,300 belong to the organization. "Our organization is strictly for midgets or dwarf type persons," he said.

The Westside resident spoke of several convention highlights:

—a report from a leading doctor on the causes of being born small. Marr said research is making progress but nothin concrete has been discovered far.

—a discussion concerning f labor practices. Marr said small people must sell themselves to the employer and that in many cases they do a better job than most.

—a general boost in moral among the people attending. Marr said each convention boosted the moral of every member and that much was being done to help individuals locate jobs.

Marr himself said he knows how small persons can be the subject of discrimination. He said that his early life, especially in school, was a real problem but that after adjusting he considers himself lucky.

"I have just as many friends on the Westside as anyone," he commented.

Phoenix Daily News

July 1964

Press Missed Boat With 'Little People'

By DOYLE CARR
DAILY NEWS Staff Writer

Did Phoenix news media miss the boat during the midget convention held here last week?

In the lobby of the Highway-house one patron expressed himself as being entertained. A lady saidn "it is the largest side show of midgets I have ever seen. I am glad we stopped here for a few days." Others expressed surprise that this many midgets could get together. Many looked upon it as a social function.

Midgets aren't midgets anymore. They're "Little People." The term midget has become stereotyped to "little people."

This organization is seeking recognition in America's growing society. One of the organization's first moves was to push the term "little people." Meaning that people under 4 ft., 11 inches tall are called little people of America.

According to Phoenician Clarence Hughes, they have banded together to promote their special interest, to become a functioning part of America. They are interested in solving problems like education, employment, social adjustment and other elements which permits them to enjoy the ways of the American life without being looked upon as a freak of nature.

Other discussions were on world affairs, the rocket age and the moon trip.

"Most members of one group work; some are wealthy. We are seen in movies, on TV, working on government and private industry jobs and others. Our biggest job is to create a better image, not to always be known as a carnival midget or some kind of freaks," Hughes stated.

"Living in a giant world one must have clothes and shoes clothes and shoes to wear. Appliances and furniture are made for taller people. The organization urges manufacturers to keep us in mind when designing their wares for sale to the public," remarked Hughes.

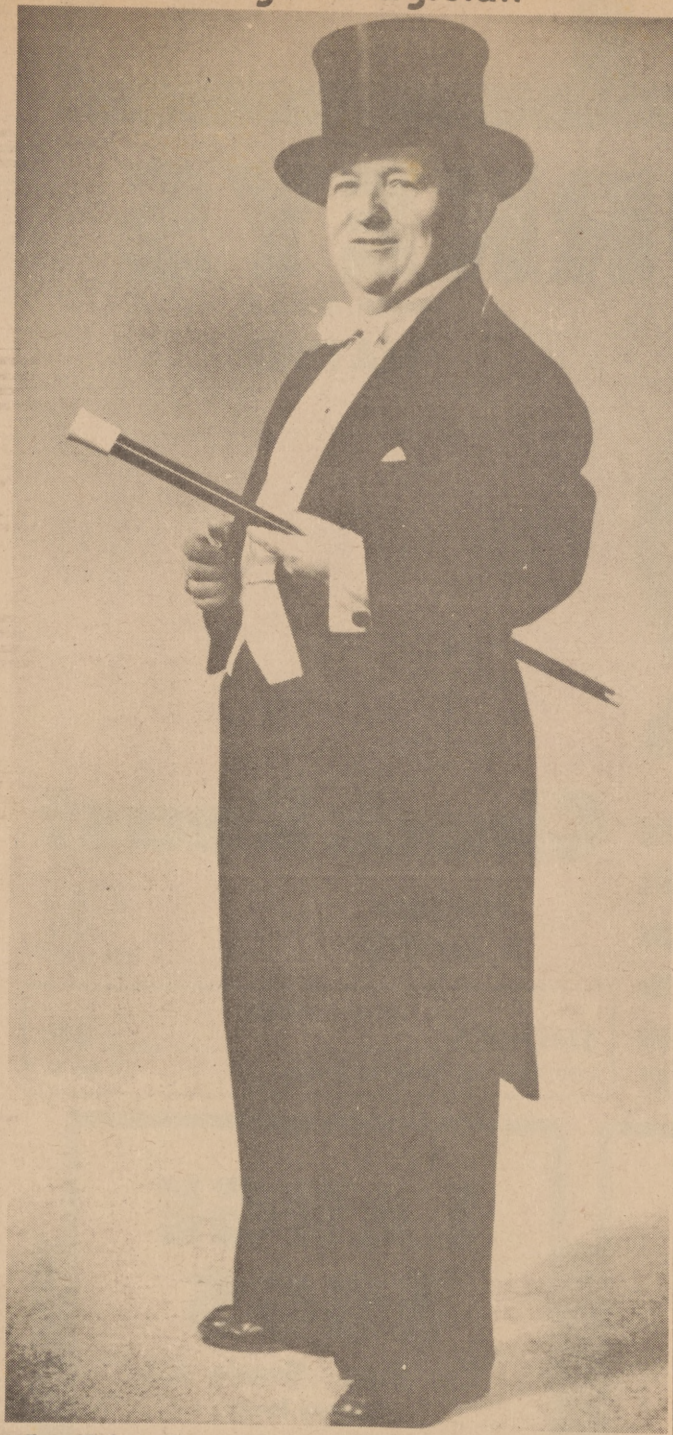
"We have an adoption program. In most cases these parents are ashamed to have them around and put them up for adoption. We try to find a place for them in a little people's family," he said.

Almost every Phoenix news story compared the short with the tall. Invariably it was the colorful and entertainment side being played up to the readers.

According to one convention official, not one news story has told the people of Phoenix why we met in their wonderful city.

Midget Magician

Calif. 7-64



Joe (Prince Tiny) White will appear at an all-day conference of The Christian Magicians Sunday, July 12. He is only 50 inches tall, and is known as The Gospel Midget.

Magicians To Convene

The Christian Magicians will hold an all-day conference on Sunday July 12. They are featuring Joe (Prince Tiny) White, the Gospel Midget Magician from Wisconsin, who is only four feet, two inches tall. He will present two Sunday school services at the Arcade Baptist Church, 3927 Marconi, at 8:45 a.m. and 11:20 a.m.

At 2:30 p.m. he will present a two-hour lecture on sleight of hand and magic at the United Christian Center, 2620 21st St. Several magicians from out of town, as well as from the local club, will also perform. At 7:30 p.m. White and several other magicians will present "An Evening of Gospel Magic" at the Arcade Weslyan Methodist Church, 3532 Whitney.

Everyone is invited to attend this all-day conference. For further information, contact Stan Adair, 5425 Rambler Way, Sacramento, ED 2-5436; or Rev. Kenneth F. Miner, 2425 Cordova Lane, Rancho Cordova 635-4277.

White is a member of the IBM, FCM, Houdini Club of Wisconsin, and was at one time with the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus. He has also written a book, "Magic—For Heaven's Sake."

1964

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(Pronounced John)

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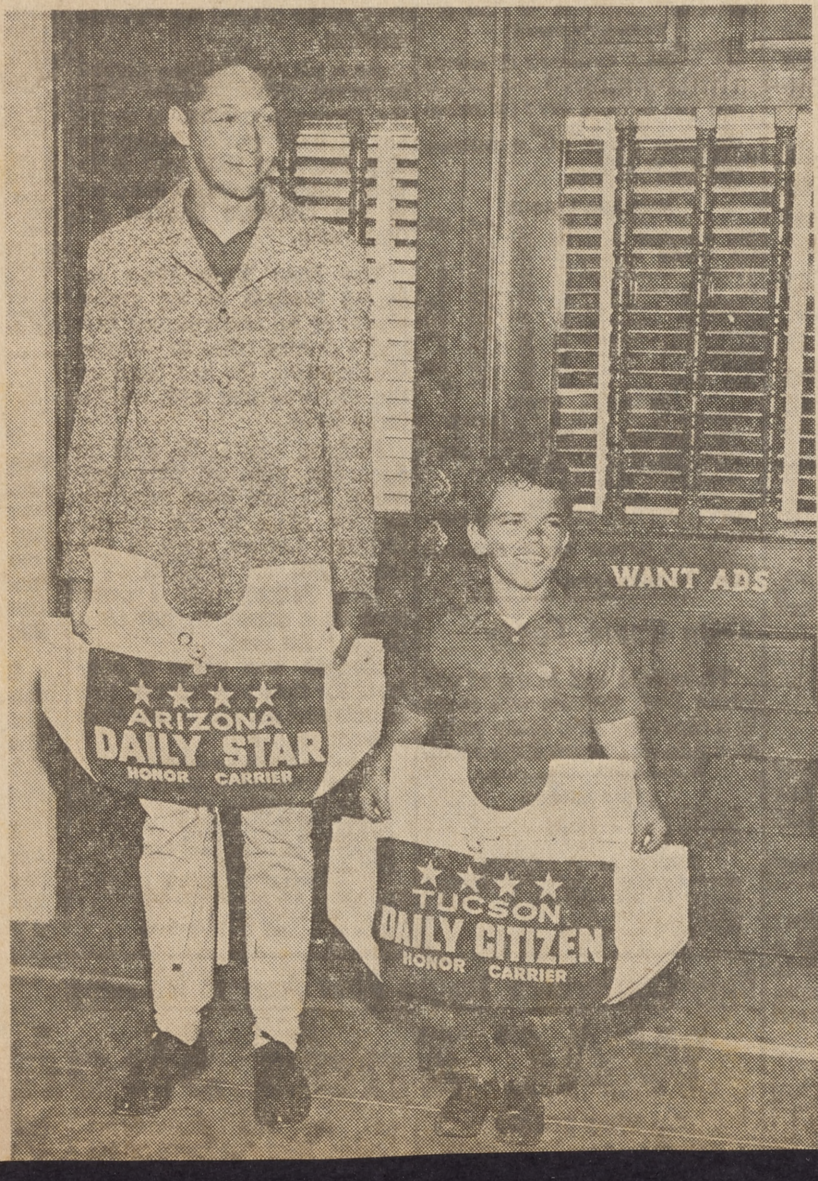
29th St. on North
Turquoise Vista on East
Golf Links Road on South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ARIZONA DAILY STAR HONOR CARRIER
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Citizen Route C-87

DANNY WASH

AGE: 15

1510 North Santa Rita

3'11" tall

Attends Roskruge Jr. High School
8th Grade
Plays football: Quarterback on after school league—by age, not by size and weight—
Hobby: Scooters

Parents:
Mr. & Mrs. William James Wash

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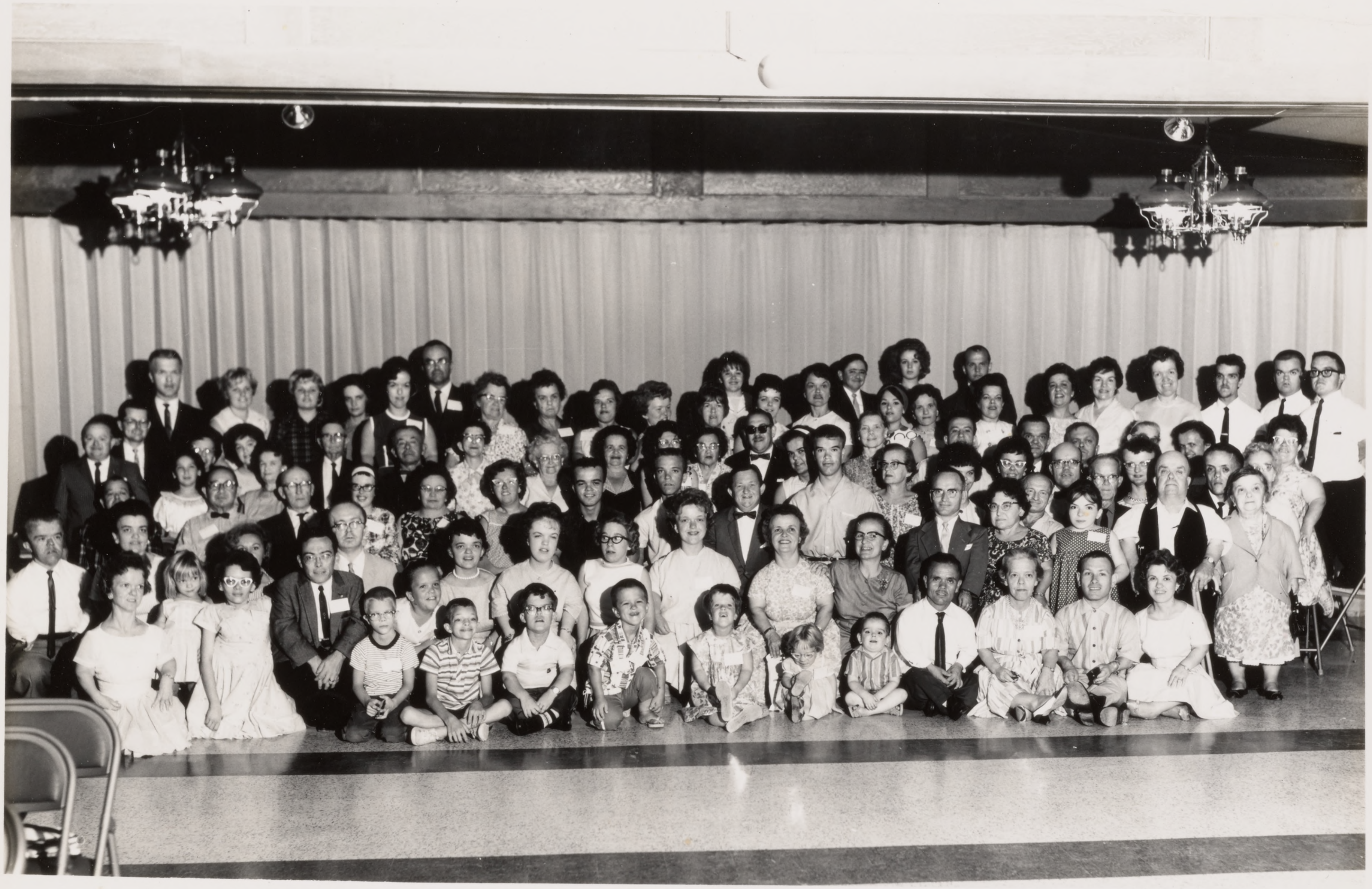
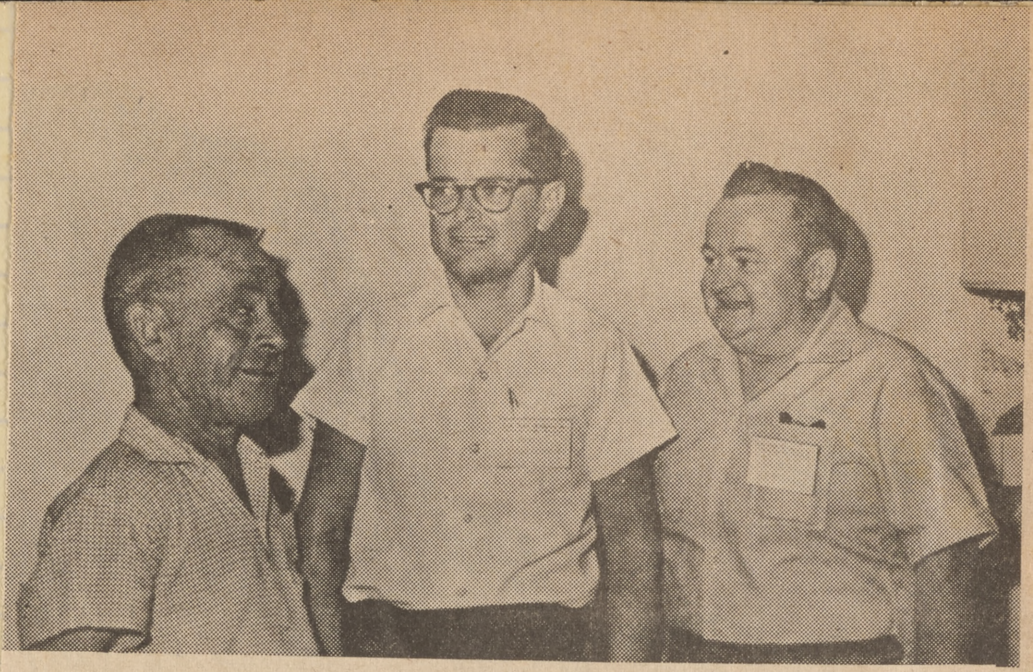


Phoenix, Ariz. LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA INC.
6th ANNUAL CONVENTION 1964 July 19-23



LITTLE PEOPLE—Leaders of the Little People of America discuss the convention of the group in progress now at the Highway House. From left, Earl Warr, convention chairman; Bob Brower, president; Bill Albaugh, Camden, N.J., vice-president. (DAILY NEWS STAFF PHOTO)

Little People's Future Looks Much Larger

By JOYCE TRENT
Daily News Staff Writer

The annual convention of the Little People of America got off to a big start yesterday with a radiology professor telling the group future midgets might have a chance to grow larger.

Speaker before the 100 delegates was Dr. Leonard O. Langer, Jr., assistant professor of the department of radiology at the University of Minnesota.

He said experiments with dwarfs, who are not only small, but somewhat differently proportioned, have led to remarkable results.

The experimenters use a serum made from the ordinary pituitary gland.

The convention is being held at the Highway House and will last through Thursday.

Speakers and a board meeting took up most of the agenda yesterday.

Last night the midgets put on an amateur talent show and attended a dance.

Today they will hear a talk on application of the Fair Labor Standards Act to little people. Guest speaker on that topic will be Donald Bennett, senior field investigator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor.

This will especially interest the midgets as employment is one of the major problems they have.

National officers will be elected in the morning, followed by a bowling tournament, fashion show, and Hawaiian dance at which the midgets will put on grass skirts and try the hula.

Dental problems of little people is one item of discussion on Wednesday's agenda. On Wednesday night the midgets will crown their king and queen who serve as goodwill ambassadors for the little people.

The midgets will meet for the last time at a luncheon Thursday noon.

Chairman of the event is Earl Warr. Bob Brower is president, and Bill Albaugh, of Camden, N.J. is vice president.

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